

# THE LOGGER'S BARK

a magazine

Radio Club of Tacoma



*New! Yaesu FTX-1F p. 80*



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[www.W7DK.org](http://www.W7DK.org)

Radio Club of Tacoma  
1249 South Washington Street  
Tacoma, WA 98405  
253-759-2040

**W7DK**

Open House every Saturday  
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Last Saturday every month is  
Swapmeet Day

**Radio Club of Tacoma**

Founded 1916

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**But don't stop there! Each issue is  
50 or more pages of fun and cool  
stuff to explore! Scroll on!**

HAVE A SUBMISSION FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE?

[loggersbark@gmail.com](mailto:loggersbark@gmail.com)



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Monthly ruminations from our President

Mike Mikuchonis

W7XTZ

## HELLO RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA!

Let's keep this as short and sweet as possible! Are you enjoying all the political talk that's everywhere these days? It seems like you can't turn on the TV without being bombarded by campaign ads. And then there are all the talking heads who seem to know exactly what's good for you—LOL! Well, I really hope you've been paying attention and doing your research, because the election is now just a few short weeks away. In fact, depending on where you live, early voting may have already started, and there's a good chance you can cast your vote sooner rather than later.

But let's not get too caught up in the national or local political scene. We can narrow our focus a bit. Right here, within our own Radio Club of Tacoma, we're also holding elections. I hope you've had the chance to swing by the clubhouse and meet your

current Board of Directors and Officers. These folks put in a lot of hard work, and hopefully, they're making decisions that truly benefit you as a member. Now, with the upcoming elections, there are several offices and positions open. It's an opportunity to show your support, and yes, there are both new and longtime candidates running. Take a little time to think about who you'd like to have representing you.

Now, some of you might be wondering, "Why should I bother voting if there's only one person running for a particular position?"

Well, let me tell you—your vote still

matters! Casting your vote is a way to

show your support for both the individual running and for the club as a whole. It's a small but meaningful gesture, and it keeps our club strong and active.

OK, that's enough political talk for now. Let's get back to the fun stuff—playing radio!

Mike W7XTZ





# FROM THE DESK OF THE VP

Insights from our Vice President

Adam Barbera  
W2NCC

## THE SOCIAL SIDE OF AMATEUR RADIO

Ham radio isn't just about antennas, radios, and chatting over the airwaves. It's also about the people you meet along the way. The social aspect of ham radio adds to its enjoyment and uniqueness, transforming a technical hobby into a vibrant community experience. While we love learning about and using technology, much of the tech within ham radio serves as a bridge to connect with others. Many hams find just as much joy in the camaraderie and friendships they build as they do in operating their radios.

One popular way for hams to meet others is by joining a radio club. Such clubs bring together members from diverse backgrounds and skillsets, united by their shared passion for amateur radio. With so many areas of specialization—like EME, QRP, Parks on the Air (POTA), grid square hunting, digital modes, CW, restoring classic rigs, and VHF/UHF—there's something for everyone. Being part of a club not only provides access to a wealth of knowledge but also connects hams with others who share their specific interests.

Clubs also organize events such as monthly meetings, picnics, breakfast gatherings, and other social activities. These occasions give members a chance to spend time

together away from their radios, relaxing and talking about their shared experiences. It's during these moments that members can trade ideas, discuss topics like antenna building, and forge deeper bonds over their love of the hobby.

These activities encourage lasting friendships within the ham radio community. There's something special about

sharing the thrill of overcoming challenges with fellow enthusiasts, and clubs offer a welcoming space for these connections to thrive.

While the equipment is essential to ham radio, it's often the social side that keeps people engaged for life. Friendships formed through club interactions, on-air rag-chewing, and national events help to create a unique community, offering both support and shared passion. Ham radio

has endured as a method for genuine human connection, where even a simple QSO can spark a lifelong friendship. The true strength of ham radio doesn't lie solely in its technology but in its ability to bring people together—from across the nation and around the world—creating connections that stand the test of time.

73 for now—Adam, W2NCC





# SECRETARY'S REPORT

## W7DK Secretary—Gary WG7X



### LET'S TALK ABOUT AMPLIFIERS!

As some, or most, of the members of the Radio Club of Tacoma know, we have been trying to get our last new item of equipment from suppliers. This last piece of equipment is a [Palstar amp](#) (LA-1K) that has been on backorder for almost a *year*. Your HF committee has been diligently keeping in touch with our two major suppliers, Palstar and DX Engineering. It is beginning to look a bit more promising for a delivery of this final piece of the station.

But that's not what I'm writing about this time, folks. Rather, it's a bit of discussion on amps themselves—how they can be used, some of the issues involved with amps, and when an amp is really needed.

**Amps today come in two basic varieties:** tube or solid-state. To further muddy the waters, they can be either AC (mains) or DC powered. To keep the discussion short, we'll talk about amps for home stations, which means AC powered, even when the AC is used to generate DC!

Tube amps often use the familiar glass-envelope power tubes like 811s, 872Bs, and 3-500s. Then there are ceramic tubes. All these types of amps can develop anywhere from 400 to 1,500 watts, but they all require AC power, ranging from a regular 120

VAC wall socket to special sockets with up to 240 VAC. Ceramic tubes are generally found in more expensive, higher-power amps.

Most tube amps use these familiar tubes that have been in use for many decades. They are old hat to most of us.

**Then, there are transistorized amps.** Transistors have also been around for decades, and there are quite a few older transistorized amps

still out there. New transistors are introduced every year. For the sake of brevity, we'll lump all these different types of amps into one big group called simply "solid-state," or SS for short.

There are way too many types of transistors

out there, and they're not as easy to identify as tubes. Tubes are big and obvious; transistors, by comparison, are small and not so easy to identify. However, the new LDMOS transistors can develop as much power as the bigger tube amps, and in a much, much smaller package.

**Over many years**, RCT has had tube receivers, transmitters, and amplifiers, but we, the HF Committee, have been updating all the shacks to bring us up to the current state of the art in all categories. We have





# SECRETARY'S REPORT

W7DK Secretary—Gary WG7X



cool, *new* radios now that will self-protect if given a chance (regarding poor SWR matches). In years past, the old tube amps & transmitters were touted as being more forgiving of operator error, and maybe they were, but the new stuff is even better at that and at many other things we want our equipment to do.

I mention this because, for the longest time at RCT, we have had radios that were state-of-the-art. We have always endeavored to keep up with current technology, all the while having power amps that were older and cantankerous at times, occasionally with sparks flying, but always with lots of hot air warming the upstairs HF room shack, and fan noise whenever they were in use.

**Kind of like driving an old '56 Chevy** to work when a new Chevy SUV would do the job much better. The old Drake amps we used to have were kind of like that '56 Chevy with a manual transmission—no power steering or power brakes.

Yes, they did the job, and in 1956, they too were “state-of-the-art” at the time. Hardly anyone in the club knew how to properly tune and use the old amps. That is one of the many reasons we’re moving to SS.

We’re trying to make it easy for everyone to use our equipment without problems. In the past, the Drake L4-B amps presented many problems for us.



**That said, amps are just another tool in the ham radio toolbox**, but they come with their own set of problems. First and foremost is the interference problem, both with your own equipment and your neighbors'. This used to be a much bigger issue, but in the last decade or so, digital TVs have become common, and they are pretty much impervious to our transmitted "BIG SIGNAL"!

Telephones? Not so much. Other electronic devices in the home can also be affected by our RF. Stereo setups are notoriously good at picking up transmitted RF. If this ever affects you or your neighbor's stereo, be very cautious about "fixing" their problems.

Unfortunately, most folks don't know anything about us as hams or what we do. All they know is that the big antenna must be causing their issues. So, we are left to deal with them (the problems, that is...).

Neighbors can be given advice on how to mitigate the problems, but most will still insist that YOU fix the problem immediately, or else! Most importantly, *don't do anything to their equipment*. Refer them to the

ARRL for assistance. Also, show them the little FCC "Part 15" warning that's affixed to their equipment. This warning indicates that their equipment must not interfere with us and that they must suffer the interference or fix it themselves. Period. If you do anything to their equipment, **you** will be held responsible for all future problems. You can bank on that!





# SECRETARY'S REPORT

W7DK Secretary—Gary WG7X



I've had amps in my shack for over 30 years, and in all that time, I've only had one complaint. That was easily solved by simply rotating my antenna a bit away from the fellow's house. His TV/game system was a real *rat's nest* of wiring. He was a good egg, though, and we agreed that if I tweaked my antenna a bit and it didn't help, I would try not to transmit in his direction when "the game" was on. This was before Monday Night Football, though...

**So, physical neighbors are one thing, but RF neighbors are quite another.** Tuning an amp on the air should be **forbidden!** If you get an amp, also get a dummy load big enough to handle the amp and then some. Get a good wattmeter too. These two accessories will make your life a whole lot easier, and others on the band will appreciate it as well.

**Back to the last topic: why, if ever, would you need or want an amp?**

Before deciding to purchase an amp, make sure your antenna system is *as good as you can make it*. Improving the old antenna farm is a much better investment than buying an amplifier. The adage "I can work most everything I can hear!" is a good one, but what if you don't really know what you're NOT hearing because you haven't done your homework and worked out in the antenna farm enough?

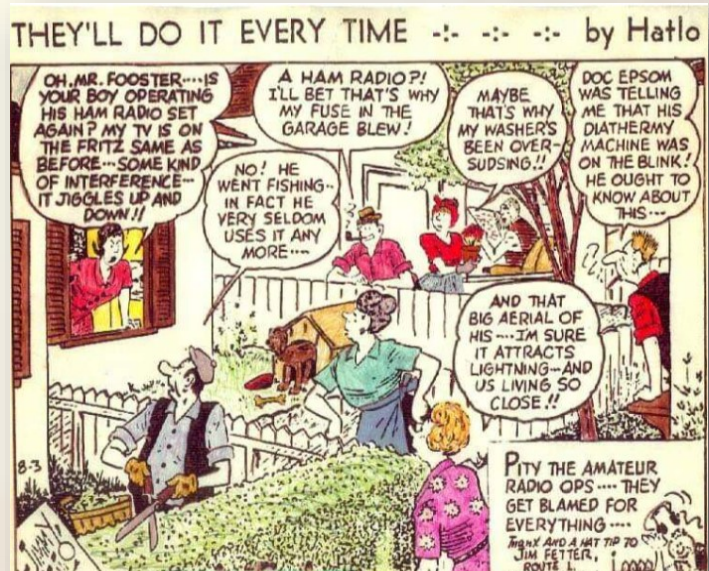
An amp will only help your transmitted signal, not the received one. In addition, the best antennas *lessen local interference*, because your signal is going

where it will do the best for you, not your neighbors!

**Many hams don't get this simple fact.** They rush out to get the biggest, *baddest*, planet-destroyer amp their budget will allow. *Don't fall into this trap!* It's like those days in high school when the rich kid always had the best car in the parking lot. Remember those days? Did he DRIVE better than you?

The big amp may be cool, but it's usually not necessary, at least not when you're just starting out. Wait a bit. See how well your basic setup works before adding an amp to the mix. Your wife will thank you, your neighbors will thank you, and the hams on the air will thank you for being a responsible user of our shared HF spectrum.

Until next time, 73 – Gary WG7X







**WELCOME TO THE NOVEMBER ISSUE** of *The Logger's Bark*! This month brings **a few needed changes** to the basic structure of the publication. When I first laid out the initial framework for this project, I thought it would be fun to have an "Identify the Mystery Member" based on a photo from that person's youth. Alas, after 10 months, this has not proven to be a topic many have been interested in taking a shot at. In fact, of all ten issues only three times has the "mystery member" even been attempted (based on emailed guesses) and of those, *all three* have been content contributors! The only mystery members I'd have been myself, my lovely wife and assistant editor / proofreader Anne **N7ANN**, and VP Adam **W2NCC**.

And of course, now that The Bark has a global audience, it's not likely someone in another country will guess who one of us is from our youth!

So that's clearly not workable going forward so I've dropped that section. For a replacement to that challenge, beginning with this issue will be a challenge that should be much easier and probably more fun for most readers: **"Find the hidden object"**! There is a new blurb telling readers what the hidden object is with the usual prize of stickers to be mailed to the first who replies back telling me where they found it (object description and page number)!

Another change—that I'm reluctantly making—is to drop the Logger's Certificate page altogether. *I have not received a single Bark-based application for one* since this was first posted in the January issue. Granted, it's an easy page to just "roll over yet again every month". But I know that some folks print this entire magazine, and given there has been zero response, I just can't conscience those who print it all out, wasting ink or toner printing that page. If

you disagree, and want it reinstated, tell me via email why and I can possibly reconsider. The award will still be issued—but no longer have a page in The Bark.

Along that same line is the "Word Game" at the very end of every issue. Each Saturday, at the clubhouse, I scan the numerous printed copies of The Bark that show up and specifically, I jump to that page to see if *anyone* in the clubhouse has tried to work one of the word puzzles or crosswords. Alas, not once have I seen this done. *Readers should know:* you can just print that one page on your printer if you want to fill out the Word Game challenge.

So rather than just discontinuing the feature (to save those who print The Bark the extra toner or ink), I want to extend in this issue: If you print out and submit a completed word game challenge, and send a screen shot of the completed sheet to the email address below, I will send you a sticker or two—no charge—to your QRZ-

listed mailing address! If you send me a photo of you, the completed word puzzle, and the sticker when you receive it, I will happily publish it in a future issue of The Bark in the Mailbag column! I'll give this program two months to see if it gets traction, otherwise the Word Games section will very likely go away after the first of the year.

**Is there something I need to be publishing you're not seeing?**

**TELL ME.** Send me an email—tell me what you want to see. No promises but I'd love to hear your ideas!

That's it for this month—Happy Thanksgiving to all (to our US readers) and to anyone who might see this.

-Dave **W7UUU**



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!!!**







## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF AMATEUR RADIO AT W7DK

Amateur radio operators exhibit strategic acumen. We are, by nature, a community of innovators, having consistently demonstrated our capacity for technological advancement, from the seminal work of Guglielmo Marconi in the invention and development of radio telegraphy, to the contemporary innovations of Software Defined Radios (SDR) and the burgeoning popularity of digital modes of communication in the present day.

As an amateur radio club, our commitment to fostering an environment that encourages creativity and growth for our members, both current and future, is a top priority. We strive to provide a safe and controlled space for them to learn and experiment with the goal of nurturing the next generation of innovators who will significantly contribute to future ham radio communities.

The Radio Club of Tacoma (RCT), much like other

amateur radio clubs, faces a significant challenge in maintaining the interest of the younger generation in the hobby. A recent comprehensive analysis of our club's membership trends over the past decade has revealed a concerning attrition rate. Specifically, only 31% of individuals who joined the club within the last ten years remain

active members. Furthermore, with 60% of our current membership (*355 active members as of 10/12/2024*) being 65 years of age or older, there is an immediate and pressing need to revitalize our club with a fresh influx of younger, enthusiastic, and dedicated ham radio opera-

tors. So the Planning Committee began searching for a solution to this concerning trend.

Over the course of our extensive deliberations and exchanges with club members, one of the potential reasons for the observed membership trends has emerged: the scarcity of engaging activities offered by clubs today. Our club sponsors several amateur radio related activities annually, having participated in notable events such as ARRL Field Day, Winter Field Day, Freeze Your



Photo by W7UUU

September 29 2024 Planning Committee meeting





Buns Off, and the Washington State QSO Party, otherwise known as [The Salmon Run](#). The Salmon Run also doubles as an annual fund-raising event for our club. We also prepare members for the Technician, General, and Amateur Extra license upgrades. Every Saturday, RCT hosts an [Open House](#) at the clubhouse, welcoming on average about fifty members and guests from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We are fortunate to have owned our own clubhouse since 1957, which serves as a hub for these events.

Despite all these activities, however, we promptly discerned that we could augment our offerings to better serve our members. The Planning Committee explored avenues to enhance the skills of our members, from those newly initiated to those with extensive experience, spanning three decades or more in the field. It was this revelation that gave rise to the proposed establishment of the club's Training and Education Committee.

This committee will be established to oversee and promote classes and training for current and prospective members. The goal of this new committee is to foster a comprehensive learning environment where participants can enhance their skills and knowledge in the field of radio communications. It will seek to accomplish this by organizing and conducting classes and training sessions

that will be developed for both remote and classroom settings, and will cover a wide range of topics, from the fundamentals of radio theory to advanced operating procedures. These sessions will be designed to cater to both beginners and experienced operators, ensuring that everyone can learn and grow within our club.

We have already witnessed the success of the inaugural in-person class, the Basic Soldering Class, which filled twelve spots within a week's time and now maintains a waiting list. This initial offering will be succeeded by a more advanced soldering class, leading students to subsequent classes scheduled for the coming year. Proposed classes include a Balun Concepts Class followed by a Balun Building Lab, Wire Antenna Concepts, and a Wire Antenna Lab, Morse Code.

Now that we have initiated our examination of the potential, we find that the ideas begin to flow more readily. This is merely the commencement of a series of tasks that the Planning Committee will undertake in the coming year. We are eager to share these developments with the broader amateur radio community as we continue our work.

Until next time—this is Manny **AD7MA**



# HAM RADIO WORLD NEWS

Amateur radio events from *around the world*



W7UUU

**NTE**  
ELECTRONICS, INC.

## ANOTHER LONG-TIME PARTS SUPPLIER IS GONE

Joining the sad ranks of Radio Shack and MFJ, the next-to-fall is a long-time supplier to homebrew & commercial gear builders around the world, NTE Electronics. The Bloomfield NJ wholesaler of high-quality electronic parts for more than 40 years will soon close for good.

As recently posted on their [Facebook page](#):

*"For more than 40 years, NTE Electronics Inc. thrived with quality products, off-the-shelf delivery, and remarkable growth, earning respect across the industry while maintaining profitability under strong leadership. It is with great sadness that we announce the closure of NTE Electronics Inc. Following the sale of the company in late 2022, the new ownership's negligence and mismanagement in the past two years has resulted in financial difficulties, forcing the company to cease operations."*

*We are deeply grateful to our dedicated employees, loyal customers, suppliers, representatives, and partners who have supported NTE Electronics Inc. for over four decades. It has been a privilege to serve you, and we sincerely apologize for any complications and disappointment we may have caused during these challenging times. "*

NTE parts were sold through a vast global network of dealers. But once existing inventories are gone, the nearly half million types of resistors, capacitors, diodes, transistors, relays, switches, fuses and vast array of other parts sold through Newark and other online vendors will be gone.

It seems more and more that we as hams are saying "they will be missed by many".

-Dave W7UUU

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR RADAR RALLY

**RADAR**

Eddie Leighton, **ZS6BNE** (NW Province, South Africa) is now accepting registrations for RaDAR. "RaDAR stands for Rapid Deployment Amateur Radio and encourages outdoor operating with a unique challenge: make five contacts and redeploy as fast as possible in four hours".

What began as the RaDAR Challenge has become the RaDAR Rally with some rule tweaks. You can read the full rules [HERE](#).

The objective of RaDAR is to use your ham radio knowledge, portable equipment, and physical skills to challenge yourself during an unforgettable four-hour experience. This four-hour duration creates an urgency that demands optimized equipment and operating strategies. The event takes place on the first Saturday of November and April. Just choose four consecutive hours during the UTC day. The following Sunday is a backup date if the Saturday is unfavorable for you.

You may choose any outdoor venue where you can legally and safely operate. Parks are a natural choice. Make it as scenic and exciting as you can! You may combine RaDAR Rally with POTA or SOTA and do double duty! Operating as either gets you one extra point per contact in the scoring. All you have to do is set up at your first deployment, make five contacts, then move to the next destination as quickly as possible. Repeat as many times as you can during the four hours.

This sounds like a really fun event—and nothing in the rules seems to preclude anyone in the world participating. But you need to register with Eddie and time is short! Click [HERE](#) to register—the November event is Saturday November 2nd so get on it if you want to play!

-Dave W7UUU



# ARRL NEWS & VIEWS



W1AW

## HAM RADIO SERVING SOUTHEAST U.S. RECOVERY EFFORTS

10/04/2024

ARRL® The National Association for Amateur Radio® is tracking how amateur radio is proving critical in areas hit hard by Hurricane Helene, especially in North and South Carolina, portions of Tennessee, and beyond. In the hardest-hit Asheville, North Carolina, area, homes and entire towns have been swept away by flood waters and mudslides. Over 200 people have been killed, and many more are still missing.

Widespread devastation has damaged the power grid and roads, and many residents are without cell phone service and other utilities. For several days, radio communications were the only means of passing information. Ham radio continues to play a significant role in this situation.

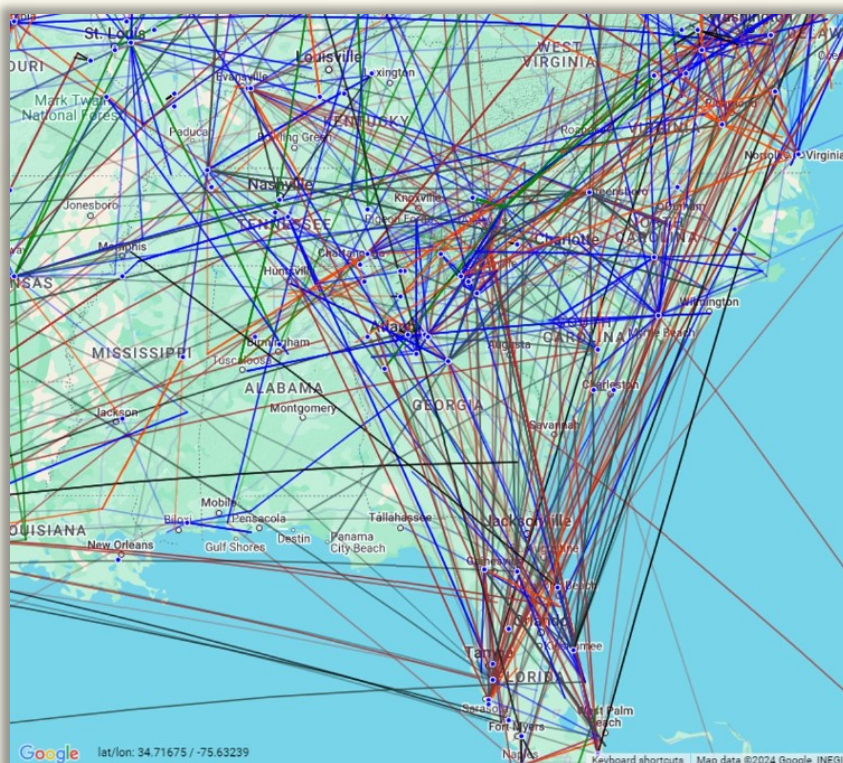
In North Carolina, all official emergency radio communications are done through NC AUXCOMM. NC Division of Emergency Management Senior External Affairs Specialist Brian Haines says hams are deployed. "Amateur radio operators are working side by side with first responder communications personnel all over Western North Carolina. Needless to say, we are interested in highlighting all they are doing but at this point they are heavily involved in response efforts, which is where we need to focus," he said. Winlink, which provides email over amateur radio, has

been used significantly in the recovery. ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, says the recent FCC removal of symbol rate restrictions has allowed a streamlined response using modern technology. "Winlink is an example of how modern tools work well within the Amateur Radio Service. Not having to petition the FCC for a waiver of the old rules allowed Winlink to be used immediately during this emergency," he said. ARRL had advocated

for the change, which was implemented in 2023.

Significant stories of the response from individual hams is emerging, particularly from those who have created pop-up nets to pass health and welfare traffic. Using mountaintop repeaters that have robust power backups, HF frequencies, and Winlink, ham radio operators are putting in their time, talents, and personal gear to good use.

The local news media in affected areas has connected with several



*A visualization of Winlink traffic. The amount of activity is unusually high, due to the emergency*

radio amateurs to highlight their work. CBS 17 in Raleigh reported on Van Lee, KM4TC, who helped families trying to get information on loved ones. In Charlotte, Queen City News told the story of Dan Gitro, K2DMG, who has been providing information to hams about current conditions as well as passing along messages to loved ones.

Countless other hams have stepped up by passing traffic and providing information. ARRL seeks to tell those stories of selfless service as the operators find time.



# ARRL NEWS & VIEWS



W1AW

Amateur radio has been serving communities even before the storm hit. The Hurricane Watch Net, VoIP Hurricane Net, and WX4NHC, the amateur radio station at the National Hurricane Center, were all active as the storm churned towards Florida. In the 25 hours that the net was active, hams passed along over 100 surface reports that were used by forecasters to make more informed decisions about the storm.

Hurricane Helene made landfall near Perry, Florida, on the evening of Thursday, September 26, as a Category 4 storm. With winds of 140 miles per hour, it was the strongest hurricane on record to slam into Florida's Big Bend.

In Florida, Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers were embedded with county officials and at the State Emergency Operations Center.

As the storm moved north, the worst impacts were felt. Officials have classified the rainfall near Asheville as a 1,000-year event. The impact started to emerge over the weekend of September 28—29.

ARRL leadership was in touch with field organization volunteers in the impacted area throughout the weekend. On Monday, a call was held to see what resources may be needed. A clear challenge of logistics emerged. Entire road networks are unpassable. General aviation pilots have been working, as they do during major disasters, to use donated

aircraft to ferry in relief supplies. Ham radio operators have been working with Operation Airdrop and other volunteer groups to help provide communications support. Dozens of private helicopters have been flying in supplies, as have military assets.

In Tennessee, hams have rallied to return repeaters impacted by the storm to service. Section Manager of the ARRL Tennessee Section David Thomas, KM4NYI, reports that a re-

quest for help on the TN ARES net resulted in batteries being donated and delivered to return the W4KEV repeater system to service, including the 145.410 machine located on Viking Mountain in Greene County, Tennessee, which covers much of the area in North Carolina and Tennessee that was decimated.

As connectivity via phone and data networks continues to return, ARRL expects more

stories of amateur radio serving communities will emerge.

While commercial communications networks and utilities are increasingly more resilient, Hurricane Helene has demonstrated that amateur radio is a critical partner that works When All Else Fails®.

Article & images ©2024 ARRL, Inc.



*Batteries being delivered to get a repeater system back on the air*



# ARRL NEWS & VIEWS



W1AW

## AN INCREDIBLE AMATEUR RADIO RESCUE STORY

10/04/2024

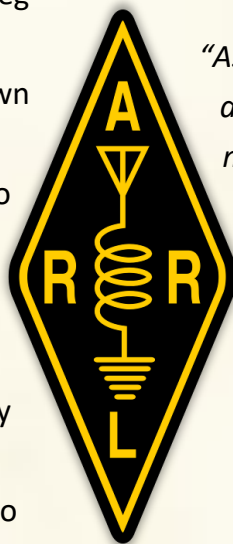
[ARRL Editor's note: The following story was submitted by Don Gardner, W7PJ, ARRL Idaho Section Emergency Coordinator.]

On the evening of September 21, 2024, Greg Owen, WX7Z, heard an amateur radio emergency call on the VHF frequency known as the national simplex calling frequency, 146.52 MHz. Ed Clark, K7ELC, was calling to get medical help for a 51-year-old man who had rolled his four-wheeler.

Mac Mackintosh, W7ENZ, found the accident and injured man near his property where there isn't any cellphone service. Mackintosh had given his handheld radio to Clark to make the call for help while he gave aid to the injured man. The injuries were serious... head trauma, broken collarbone, broken ribs, and difficulty breathing.

Owen called 911 to request help. An ambulance, Life Flight helicopter and law enforcement were dispatched to the location, which was 35 minutes outside Orofino, Idaho. Meanwhile, Owen continued using the amateur radio to relay updates to the dispatcher. The injured man was transported to the hospital via Life Flight and at last report was recovering.

Gardner said hams in Idaho support an old national program called the Wilderness Protocol which encourages the use of the national simplex calling frequency, 146.52 MHz.



*"As amateur radio operators, we train to be available to help when help is needed. The more that ham radio operators listen to the radio, the more chance there is that someone will be listening to take your emergency call. This is something that has been used many times throughout this county and here in Idaho," he said. "This is another incredible story to share."*

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**Dear Editor,**

I've been looking for the hidden word for October as "Hilberling" but as yet not found it. But I did spot a typo on page 75—the word 'contesters' has been spelt 'conesters'. Enjoying reading your club magazine each month.

Cheers!

Dave **G0DJ4**

Bolsover, England, UK

*Thanks for the nice email and keep on searching—if you find it, I'll still send stickers. And thanks for the typo report! What can I say... they happen!*  
-Dave **W7UUU**, Editor

Our latest "DX Winner" of the Hidden Word contest hails from Down Under, in Forrestfield, Western Australia, 20 minutes East of Perth. Big thanks to Peter, **VK6APW**, for reading The Bark and joining in our monthly fun!

### Errata from Previous Issue

Bottom, Pg. 16: Call should be **W7XTZ** not **W7XTX**—sorry Mike!

Pg. 75: *Conesters* should read "contesters" - thanks to Dave **G0DJ4**

**From QRZ,**

Always impressed by how much material you can come up with each month. I downloaded it for reading later, but had to rush forward to read about that Harvey Wells transmitter as I loved the quality of his stuff back in the day.

Toivo, **W8TJM**  
Liberty Lake, WA

**From QRZ,**

Thanks for the "Lamptenna" piece. Many good points about QRP work were found.

Don, **KL7KN**, JBER Alaska

**From QRZ,**

Thank you so much, Dave, for publishing the photograph with the stickers that you, very generously, sent to me. Very appreciated. And congratulations for the excellent magazine.

Fernando, **WA4BL**  
Zafra, Spain

**From QRZ,**

Looking forward to Sasquatch Awareness Day SES! I always enjoy the Newsletter and appreciate the time you put into it.

Sean, **KK7OVF**, Oregon



# THE MAILBAG

LETTERS  
To The Editor

W7UUU



IN RESPONSE TO THE 'LIGHTNING IN MY BEDROOM' story in the [September Logger's Bark](#), Dan **N19Y** of Mishawaka, Indiana, wrote in to share his own story of "lightning in his bedroom".

**Says Dan:** When I was ten years old in 1950 while lying in bed with my crystal set on a table listening to [Radio Moscow](#)....., all of a sudden, a basketball size ball of lightning bounced off all four walls and at the ceiling. I knew exactly what the explanation was, as I was reading a 1924 [Radio Age radio magazine](#). Then in 1957 I listened to Sputnik on a Hallicrafters S19R receiver. I grew up being taught by the greatest generation of teachers many of whom returned from WW2. I enjoy reading the *Loggers Bark* especially the lightning story. I can relate to those old radios and tubes. My shack had heaters which kept the room toasty unlike today when you need a furnace to keep warm.

Read my story [HERE](#) on QRZ.

-73 Dan **N19Y**

**RADIO AGE**

Art from front cover of August  
1924 Radio Age Magazine



Cornelius **DO1FER** with his vintage Revox R77 Open-Reel deck, Hi-Fi being his other hobby



**Dear Editor:** Last month you wrote about your bedroom lightning storm and the dangers that come with it. You mentioned wanting to collect more stories from others, so I thought I'd share one from my own shack.

A few years ago, I was working on one of the last [MKARS80 QRP transceiver kits](#). One day, as I was working on it, a thunderstorm rolled through the area. I had the BNC connector disconnected from the radio because I was planning to test the MKARS80 later that day. The BNC was not fitted, but the cable was still connected to my Window Quad antenna.

As I was sitting at my desk, thinking about how to put the MKARS80 together, lightning hit somewhere close, and a strong static charge was induced. I saw a blue spark shoot out from the middle of the BNC center pin. It looked just like the spark you'd see from a gas lighter.

That tiny blue spark could have *easily* fried any transceiver connected to it. It was a real eye-opener for me, and it's a reminder to *all* operators to always be careful during lightning storms.

-73 Cornelius **DO1FER**, Germany





*Way Back Photo Booth picture from  
August 2024 Logger's Bark*

**Dear Editor,**

I just thought you'd like to know about the picture in the August 2024 "The Way Back Photo Booth" page. There's a picture of a CW Test, and the "unknown W7DK event" was the 1970 Hamfest. It was the CW Copying Contest.

I do know a couple of the people in the picture, from left to right: the blond/streaked-haired person I don't know, next to the right is Hank, who was then **WB6TZQ**, next was me - **K7VZH** back then (I'm **K7LJ**, now) and I don't know who the person is next to the Hammarlund speaker, though he looks familiar.

Hank, another guy named Dale (whose call I don't remember) and I all drove up to Tacoma from the SF Bay Area to attend the Hamfest. At the Hamfest, we saw **K7YZZ**'s SSTV demo, which was a new mode to all of us, and very high-tech at the time.

We then drove up to Vancouver BC, which was challenging to enter at that time, with so many young guys trying to escape the Vietnam War draft and trying to get into Canada. Fortunately, the border crossing guard noticed that I was still wearing my hamfest callsign admission badge, just having come from the W7DK Hamfest. He said that he was a ham and had been listening to the hamfest event station on HF, and asked "Weren't they using some special phonetics?" I told him, "**Yes ... W 7 Doctor Kildare**" which was the answer he seemed to be looking for, and he helped us get into Canada with no trouble.

Thanks for the amazing magazine you put together. It must be more than a full-time job! It's always great to see the group at the Mike & Key Hamfest in Puyallup every year.

-73 Larry Johnson, **K7LJ**  
Woodland, Washington

*Larry,*

*Thanks so much for adding just a little more detail to the club history archive! Great little story of your adventures coming to the 1970 W7 "Doctor Kildare" Hamfair! Very much appreciated. And thanks as well for the kind words about The Bark—73, Dave **W7UUU***



**Dear Editor,**

I read your article in the October 2024 issue of "The Logger's Bark" about your lightning experience in your bedroom radio shack. While my own encounters with lightning weren't quite as dramatic, I've had my fair share of learning moments.

When I set up a TV antenna in my first home 40 years ago, I thought installing it in the garage rafters would protect it from Minnesota's harsh weather.

Unfortunately, I was wrong about lightning. One night, lightning struck the house across the street. It blew their brick chimney apart, but luckily, no one

was hurt. However, my TV stopped receiving any stations. I found out the lightning had fried the RF amplifier in my setup. After replacing the blown CMOS chips, I was back in business, but the strike also knocked out my home's burglar alarm system. I grounded the alarm and added resistors to prevent future issues.

A few years later, lightning struck another house nearby, and the same CMOS chips fried again. I took the opportunity to add sockets to make future repairs easier. When lightning struck that same house again a year later, my RF amplifier stayed safe—grounding really did the trick!

Another experience with lightning came during a major military aircraft upgrade I was working on. We were stationed at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport, and a storm hit just as I was about to leave for vacation. As we rolled down the runway, I saw lightning strike the aircraft we were

working on. Luckily, the metal tie-downs and grounding held, protecting the aircraft. The only casualty was the phone line we had run to the plane—it was fried, along with part of the hanger's phone system. We were fortunate that none of the computer systems had been connected yet.

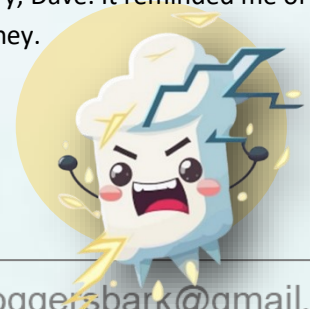
More recently, I got my ham radio license and set up my first shack. After learning from my past mistakes, I focused on proper grounding,

checked my setup with a few Elmers, and now disconnect all equipment during storms or vacations. I even run my internet through ethernet-to-fiber adapters to protect my gear.

Thanks for sharing your story, Dave. It reminded me of my own lightning learning journey.

Best regards,

-Tom Gold, **WORCG**





# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By W7UUU



Manny AD7MA

**Manny, AD7MA, is a relatively new member of the club (joined in July of 2022) but in that time he's taken on a really important roll for the club: that of Planning Committee Chair—and what a great job he's doing! He's built a strong committee of members to work to bring new ideas into action for the club. Thanks for all you do Manny! You're getting some great results already in your efforts on the Planning Committee.**

# NEW! ASK ELMER!

Mystery Elmer



**WELCOME TO THIS NEW COLUMN IN *THE BARK*!** Think of it like a Dear Abby sort of advice column. I received an email from a brand new ham who stumbled on *The Bark* via QRZ saying he wanted to ask a question about amateur radio, but didn't want to be ridiculed if he were to post in the QRZ forums. So this column was born! And who is the Mystery Elmer, you may (rightly) ask? I will pass such questions along anonymously to other members of W7DK or friends on QRZ to provide an equally anonymous response. That makes it a double-blind system: both the asker and the Elmer remain anonymous.

**If YOU have a question** you'd like to have answered in this manner, just send it to the email address at the bottom of this page, and the Mystery Elmers will help you out! -editor

**Dear Elmer,**

I just got my tech license after studying for the test. I did pretty well and got a score of 33 out of the 35 questions. I've been watching videos and reading on QRZ and other websites about ham radio and I'm slowly getting the hang of what ham radio is all about. I have a Yaesu FT60 handheld radio into a J-Pole a friend gave me that's outside my house. I like to listen to a couple of nets during the day, and some simplex conversations as well.

But my problem is I need to overcome the anxiety of making contacts. I have not yet once talked with anyone. I guess you could say it's a sort of mic fright maybe. I'm worried I'm going to make some stupid mistake or say something wrong and feel foolish or worse, piss someone off.

What can you recommend I try to do to overcome this,

-Afraid to Talk, KK7\*\*\*

**Dear Afraid,**

It's perfectly normal to have a fear of talking to a stranger over a radio using a microphone. Lots of hams have that fear when they first get started. Me? I've been a ham since the early 1990s and I was just like you. But what I found that worked

out pretty slick for me was just relax, listen to the way others talk, and maybe write down what you think you want to say in a way that the other hams are doing it. That makes it like a script that you can follow. And once you break the ice the first time like that I bet that just like me, you'll just fall right into the conversation like it was nothing. Good luck. Take your time. You'll get there! -Mystery Elmer #1

**Dear Afraid,**

Do you have a club in your area? I bet you do. Google "radio clubs near me" and see if you can find one. Then contact them about going to a meeting. Are you OK talking to people in person? So go to the club meeting and strike up a conversation with someone there and tell them you'd like to get more used to using a microphone. Ask if they can arrange to do a simplex QSO with them one day and just get on and talk just like you did at the club. Do that for a while, and then you should be ready to get on the repeater and meet others in the nets.

-Mystery Elmer #2

**Dear Afraid,**

A lot of us have been there! You didn't say in your letter if you're referring to simplex, repeaters, or both. But maybe try this: just go to 146.52 simplex (that's the National Calling frequency, which you may not know—hams in most places monitor it regularly) and put out your call like this, "this is Joe KK7\*\*\* and I'm monitoring for any call". That's a pretty common approach. If you do it on simplex, odds are you won't have more than one ham who comes back to you. So it won't be like on a net where there could be a dozen hams listening and critiquing you. I've done this with new hams and had a lot of fun with it. No reason your experience would be any different. You can do this on a repeater as well, but it's possible you'll get more than one reply. But most of the time, hams are decent folks and shouldn't give you a hard time if you were to say something "wrong". Good luck to you!

-Mystery Elmer #3





**BOB K7MXE RECENTLY** paid a visit to Al Burleson, **K7HW**, RCT Lifetime Member #1719, who is currently living at the Birch Creek nursing home in Tacoma. Al has been an awesome member of the club for many years, as a member of the Board of Directors as well as “Last Saturday Clubhouse Chef” Al just turned 93!

**So for something fun**—let’s see how many QSL cards we can get coming Al’s way to brighten his day! Since *The Logger’s Bark* now has a GLOBAL audience via QRZ.com, I know a *lot* of hams will see this. All you need to do is grab a QSL card, add a message to “Brighten Someone’s Day” on the back of it, and pop it in the mail!



**Mail the QSL card to:**  
**Al Burleson, K7HW**  
**Room 409**  
**Birch Creek Rehab Center**  
**5601 South Orchard Street**  
**Tacoma, WA 98409**



**Who knows? Maybe if enough folks see this and respond,** Al could get cards from all 50 states and beyond!

But even if not—I know he’ll get a smile out of the ones he receives regardless. -Dave **W7UUU**



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Kathryn **K7USR** invited her friend Saf Bako (not yet a ham) to tour the clubhouse and meet members



Saf was a delight to have join us—originally from Cameroon in Central Africa, by way of Paris France, he's lived in Tacoma for 21 years and is studying for his license.



Museum Curator Dan **KD7SV** evaluates an eclectic Yaesu FRG-7700 "Wadley Loop Superhet" for possible addition to the W7OS Museum station



Club Secretary Gary **W67X** discusses club plans with Planning Committee Chair Manny **AD7MA**

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU**



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Long-time member John **AC7LK** stops by for a visit to the clubhouse and HF room



Dan **KD7SV** shows off a pair of Vibroplex paddles in for museum restoration and use with the old rigs



Paul **W7PFU**, Ellen **AI7FP**, and Phil **KC7PS** send their regards from the classroom on a sunny Saturday morning at the clubhouse



Kathryn **K7USR** tours the museum to see what all new boat anchor rigs have shown up lately!

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU**



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Two Emmanuels (Manny **AD7MA** left, and Eman **KK7QLW**) meet up in the kitchen



The HF Room gang chats about amazing DX: L>R Walt **WA7SDY**, Gary **WG7X**, Mike **W7XH** and John **AC7LK**



Steve **AD7VL** stopped by for a visit in the kitchen on October 19 before heading off for other visits and he's got the badges to prove it!



Doug **AB7DG** gets set up in the HF room to get some club work accomplished

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU**



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

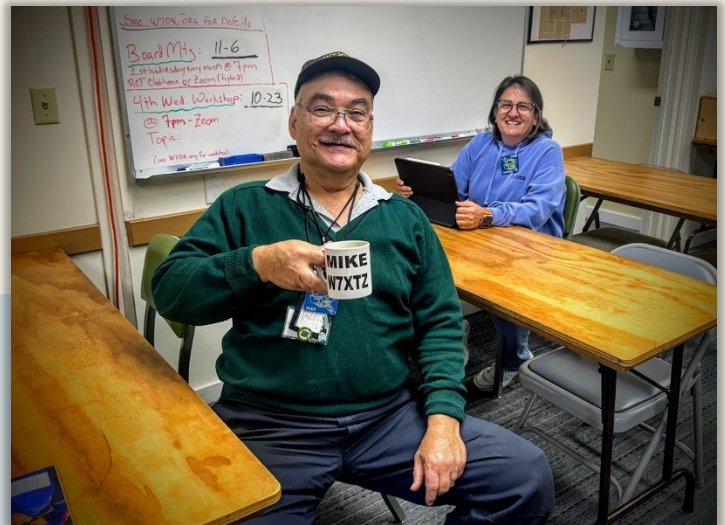
Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Planning Committee Chair **AD7MA** hangs out with Nolan **K7GBM** on October 19th in the classroom



President Mike **W7XTZ**, coffee in hand, with Kathryn **K7USR** on the other side of the classroom!



Becky **KG7FZH** hanging out in the club kitchen on October 19



Bob **K7MXE** showing off his "holy grail" needed parts for an EFJ Ranger restoration on October 26

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU**



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



13-year-old Samuel **KK7USO** learns about FlexRadio concepts from Mike **W7MKE**



Samuel **KK7USO** and his father Joe dropped by on October 26th so Samuel could pick a new HF rig! (photos next month of his new setup)



Chef Paul **W7PFU** serves up a mighty fine spaghetti feast to the gang on a rainy September 26th Last Saturday at the clubhouse



Spaghetti says, "Mr. Editor, I'm ready for my closeup" 🍝👍

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU**



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Members Jim **W7VK** and Anne **N7ANN** met up for dinner at the Port Orchard Eagles with Dave **W7UUU**



Al **N7OMS** proudly shows off his new acquisition: a Hammarlund HQ-145 receiver



Membership Chair Mike **W7XH** hanging out in the HF room



The gang's all here in the Lou Room on September 26th

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU**



# STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

## When Did Callsigns Stop Reflecting Location?

### And WHY?

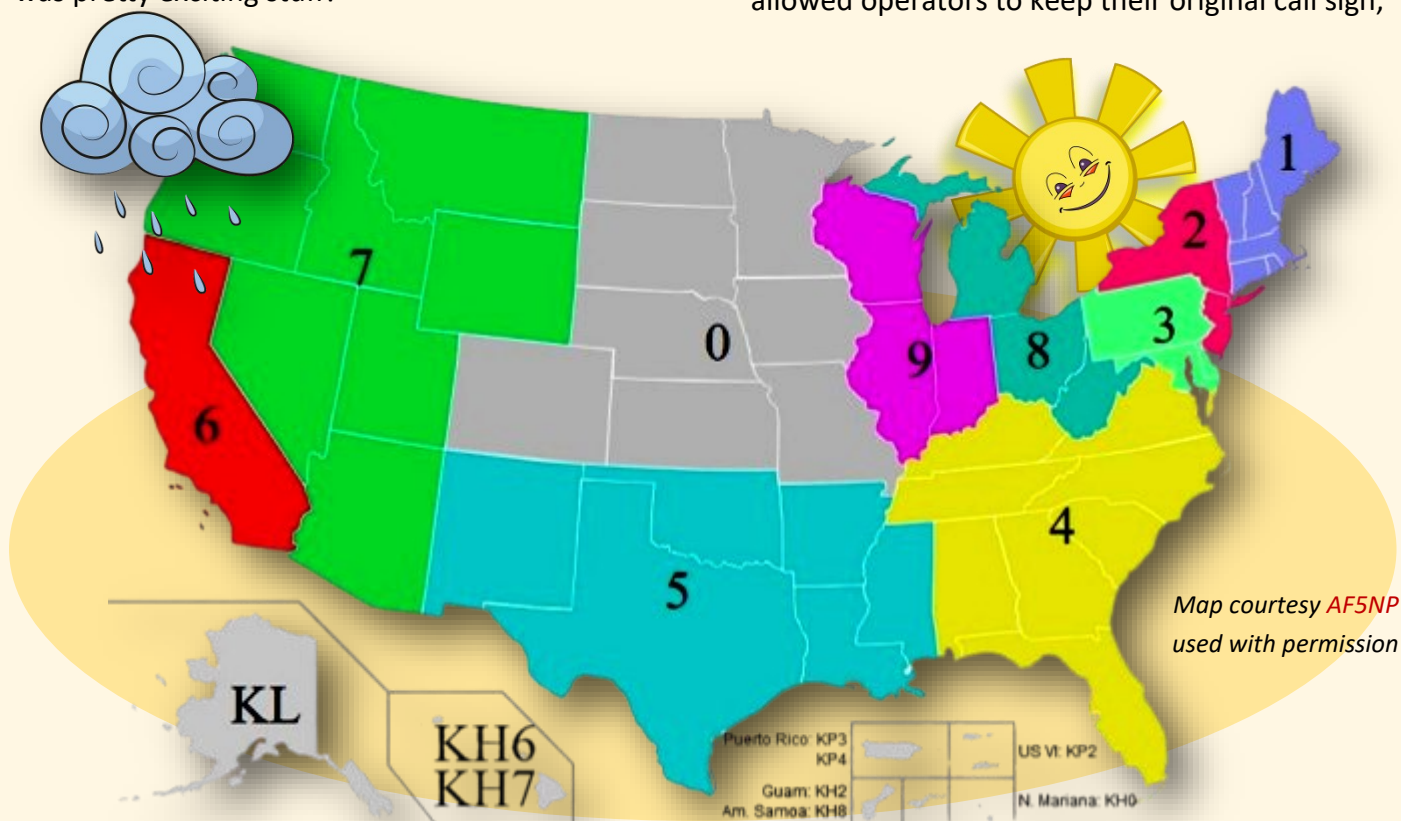


W7UUU

**MANY NEW HAMS** (and seasoned hams as well!) often ask why do our call signs no longer match the FCC's own "Call Sign District Map"? It's a good question! When I was a new Novice ham in the Spring of 1975, I would call CQ on 40m CW and hope to hear one of those distant stations from exotic places like Nebraska, North Carolina, or hope-against-hope, the Holy Grail DX states like Rhode Island, Delaware, or Florida! I'd hold my breath when a reply would come into my headphones, and if it had a 1 or a 3 or a 4 in it!! That was music to my ears—DX (to a new Novice) was calling me! I'd glance on the call sign map on my shack wall (similar to the one below), and have the certainty of knowing that 1 station could only be in New England. It was pretty exciting stuff!

And of course as I got more experienced, and knew for a fact I needed another California QSO like I needed a hole in the head, when hearing a 6 calling CQ I could just spin the dial for a more elusive state with a 4 or a 3 or a 1.

This all changed on March 24, 1978 when the FCC issued Docket 21135, which was part of a broader initiative to modernize the amateur radio licensing process. And one of the key changes was the removal of the strict requirement that an operator's call sign had to reflect their current geographic location. Prior to this, if an amateur radio operator moved from one district to another, *they were required* to adopt a new call sign that matched the numeric prefix of their new location. The new rules allowed operators to keep their original call sign,





# STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

## When Did Callsigns Stop Reflecting Location?

### And WHY?



W7UUU

even if they relocated across district lines. This *does* make good sense—imagine you had a really cool call (**W7UUU** for example!) but had to move to 3 land for work. You'd be assigned some new 3 call in the sequence. Since this was long before the Vanity Call system was in place (1996), that would be the end of it. You'd get whatever call they assigned.

Imagine especially if you had taken on your SK father's call or some other relative using the "close kin" clause in taking on the call of a deceased close family member. That could be pretty upsetting to have to leave the area, and to give up that call and receive a new call unrelated to the very special one you had to leave behind.

This change was driven by a desire on the part of the FCC to reduce administrative burdens, address call sign shortages in crowded districts, better distribute abundant calls from sparse districts, and offer greater flexibility to operators who moved frequently. Call distribution was a big factor—some districts like the 7th for example, a very large district, had grown in leaps and bounds since the early days—and call signs were running out faster than states in the 10th (0) district, which had an abundance.

As a result, the once-clear geographic system began to blur. Operators moving from New York (in the

2nd district) to Texas (in the 5th district) could now *keep their original call sign*, even though the numeral no longer indicated their physical location. Over time, the introduction of vanity call signs, combined with the ability to retain a call sign regardless of location, led to a further erosion of the old regional distinctions, which is pretty much the state we are

in today. So much "district dilution" in the ensuing 46 years has radically reduced the geographical meaning of the numeral for US ham operators.

For some, the loss of geographic association was lamented—and frankly, still is—as the old system represented a *long-standing* tradi-

tion within the amateur radio community. But many others *welcomed* the new flexibility, which allowed operators to maintain their call sign identity and avoid the inconvenience of changing it when relocating.

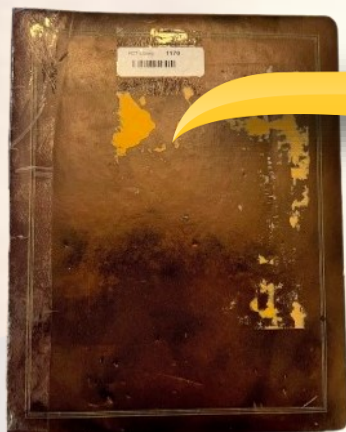
Many of us older hams do in fact lament the loss of those times... there was a certain magic to it back then. At least that's how I remember it. But times have changed, and as with many aspects of this hobby, we adapt and move along. But either way, now you know the story—why our call sign numeral no longer is locked to a geographical region.

-Dave **W7UUU**



Canada, and most other multi-district regions of the world, still adheres to geographical distinctions in calls



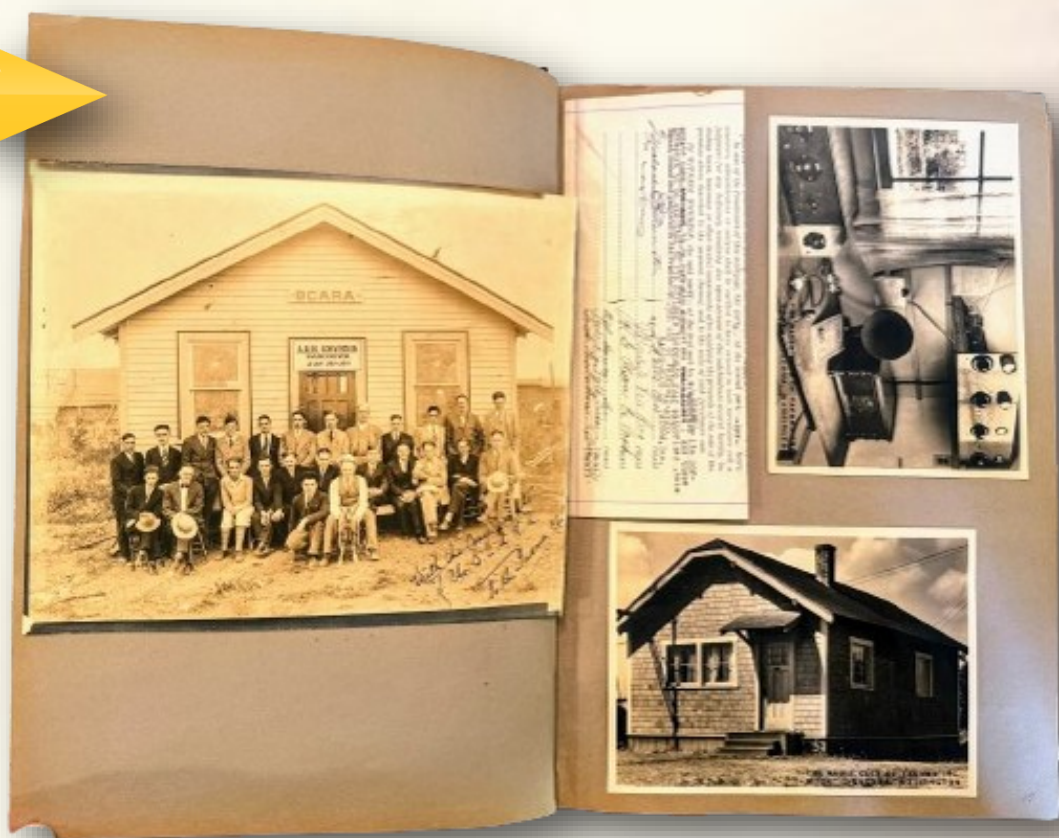


IN 1966 MARGIE  
CHAVIS, K7AMJ (SK)  
put together a  
wonderful

### 50th Anniversary

scrapbook of W7DK  
club news clippings,  
notable events, photos,  
etc. This monthly  
column will run for just  
a few issues, and  
feature selected items  
from the scrapbook  
just for a glimpse into  
the club's past. Even  
those readers who are  
not a member will still  
find enjoyment in  
reading about historical  
ham radio tidbits from  
more than half a  
century ago.

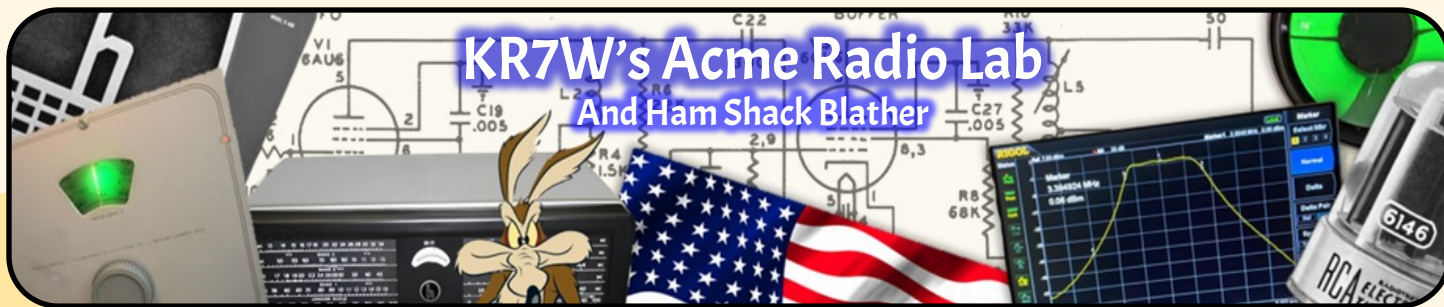
—editor



**MARGIE'S SCRAPBOOK** is packed with historical photos, articles, and even legal documents relating to the Radio Club of Tacoma. Contrary to modern archival standards, the items were glued into place which makes the scrapbook an artifact unto itself. Despite the issues that presents in the modern era, had Margie not gathered these old bits of ephemera into a single collection, they likely would have been lost over the years. So despite the fact we can't remove them easily to scan in greater detail, we're blessed with having this magnificent book of memories held in our archives. Over the years, all of the individual items have been scanned to the extent we are able and preserved. But this article series will be the first time each of them (selected) will be featured. In this particular page, the Radio Club of Tacoma's first clubhouse is pictured lower right, with the gear in use in the upper right photo along with the deed to the property. On the left, is a photo of the ARRL Western convention from the 1920s, not long after our club became affiliated with ARRL, with a photo inscribed to the Radio Club of Tacoma as its local affiliate as a gift to the club.

Over the course of this series, many of these artifacts will be presented in greater detail with explanations of each item. Thanks for joining this new series! -Dave W7UUU





## KR7W's Acme Radio Lab And Ham Shack Blather

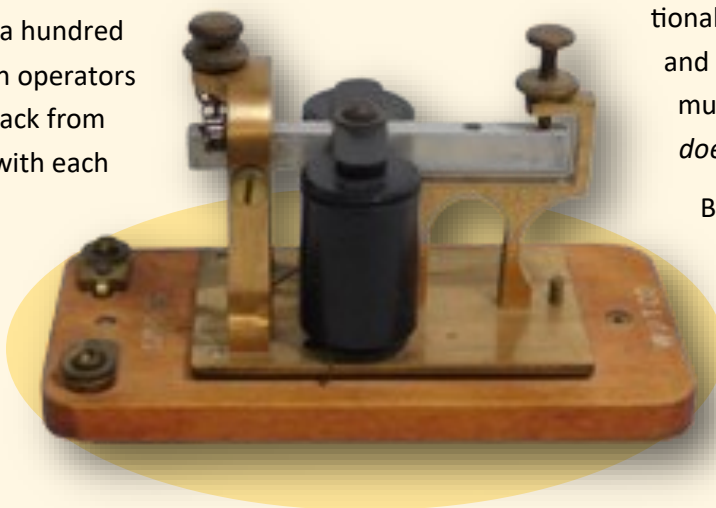
### LAUGHING ON THE RADIO.... HO HO, **HI HI**, HEE HEE

I am really big on preserving the traditions of amateur radio... you know, like QSL cards, using the nearly long lost art of CW communications, and, even though I do not do it myself... I enjoy and encourage the old timers who get on 3.840 MC and fire up their DX-100s or Viking Rangers and operate using AM.

**I read somewhere** that over a hundred years ago, railroad telegraph operators (you know – the old clack-clack from the sounder guys) laughed with each other in a Santa Claus style, sending HO HO in [American Morse code](#).

One of the eleven letters that are different in American Morse (the old railroad code) from International Morse (the code used on ships, military, and ham radio CW) is the letter O. American Morse's O is two dits with a slight separation between them i.e. dit\_dit, *which is nearly like two Es* in International Morse code.

**More than 50 years ago**, many radio operators – including many hams (the old guys I learned from when I was a kid)... still expressed their CW laughter in American Morse code as HO HO, which in International Morse sounds like HEE HEE. Laughing HEE HEE in International Morse is one of those amateur radio traditions that were instilled in me by my Elmers... and as a good ham operator I will continue to carry on that tradition (as well as many others).



**So, how did HEE HEE become HI HI?** Most likely... somewhere along the line, radio magazine writers, who were not familiar with the traditions and history of Morse operating, turned the rhythmical HEE HEE (in Morse) into the staccato HI HI in print and in voice communication on the air.

**To me, HI HI in CW** (call me a traditionalist) just doesn't sound right... and when I hear it in voice communication it *REALLY* just *doesn't sound right*, either.

But, then again... can you imagine some ham saying HEE HEE into their microphone instead of HI HI? HEE HEE sounds just about like someone laughing...

**So why not just laugh into the microphone** with laughter

instead of being so darn cryptic with HI HI?

**Two more things**—First: For those hams who are interested in CW... take a listen on a [FISTS](#) calling frequency (3.558, 7.058, 14.058 MHz, for instance) and copy a slow or fast operator. I bet you my microphone that you will hear HEE HEE. Those FISTS members want to preserve a couple of amateur radio traditions... namely CW and laughing like a good ham radio operator.

The second thing is: Listen for me on 3.957 MHz (I so badly want to say MC, but wont) some evening at 9:00 PM and hear me laugh with my belly, not HI HI. (I'll be on AM, but you won't be able to tell if you are on LSB).

—Rich, **KR7W**, FISTS Number 9996.

[reprinted from [The Logger's Bark](#), April 2005]





Nice Swapmeet venue—the Bremerton Development Club... roomy but still cozy inside



Ernie **W5NH** travels the country in his motorhome and stopped by to visit old chum Jim **W7VK** and take some old rigs home with him



Jim **W7VK** shows off his original Novice call sign at his selling table, where he sold some Novice era rigs of the past to a friend.



Lynn **W7RG** chats it up over his stack of stuff he brought to the Swapmeet to sell off

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by  
Dave **W7UUU**





*I often wonder how much of the stuff at hamfests is in fact at EVERY hamfest! Ever notice that?*



*WWA Section Manager Bob AD7LJ was manning the ARRL table as he always does*



*Bob K7MXE taking a sit-down visit with a friend at the Swapmeet.*

*Sorta looks like Santa here, doesn't he?!*



*Bob K7MXE visiting with Bob AD7LJ at the ARRL table*

**Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!**

*All photos this page provided by  
Dave W7UUU*



# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK

Bruce Hanson	WE7P
Bruce Rollwagen	KK7AIQ
David Hansen	KK7NYW
Brennan Nelson	KK7LQC
Deborah McCollum	KD7JAG
John Sherrill	N7TES
Charles Moorhead	AE7PC
Douglas Schell	KE7YOB
Christopher Porter	AA7KL
Robert Huntsman	N6CHU
Michael Weber	KJ7CSK
David Stilwell	AC7KP
Jeffrey Freedman	K7JF
Bruce Perrussel	WB7TVS
Warren Angus	NG7G
William Leneweaver	KG7QVP
Joel Goff	KJ7SXR
Victoria Carter	KC7TCX

November Birthdays!!



Scott **KF7ZFL** visits with club President Mike **W7XTZ** in the Oakman Library



Jim **N7MU** offers up his wares at the "Last Saturday Mini Swapmeet" at the Clubhouse

All photos this page by Dave **W7UUU**





## THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA!!

By Mike **W7MKE**

As most members of the Radio Club of Tacoma know, we are blessed to own our own clubhouse, and maintain a state-of-the art contingent of amateur radio transceivers and high-performance antennas that we make available not only to members, but to visitors (under supervision) as well.

In an effort to respond to member requests to have the Clubhouse open more often, the HF committee members decided they would make themselves available to open up on Thursday evenings between 18:00 and 21:00 (local Pacific time), so the members can familiarize themselves with the equipment or just try to make contacts using the club's radios. The primary radios in the HF room upstairs are the Icom IC-7610 and the Flex 6600.

Elmers are available to help work with any of the radios in the upstairs HF room. But of course, we also have the super-popular "entry level Icom" in

the Lou room. If members want to become familiar with the IC-7300 downstairs, that can be arranged as well.

We plan to rotate the Lou Room radio, perhaps every quarter with other radios the club has, including other Flex radios, so that members can familiarize themselves with different technologies.

Recently on a Thursday night, we saw the upstairs HF stations again in action for fun and learning. In the photo below, seated at the controls of the Icom IC-7610 is Dave **KK7NYW** who uses a Yaesu FT-991A at his home station but, like many of us, does not have excellent antennas at home— so working the club radios gives him the opportunity to make interesting contacts using the Yagi at 80 feet or the other low-band antennas we offer.

We are hoping that this Thursday night offering of "radio time in the HF rooms" of the W7DK clubhouse will help not only members of the club, but also help introduce new hams to the potentials of HF operation. There will always be skilled club members on hand to "show you the ropes" and help work out the technical details. Modes? We do them all: CW, SSB, RTTY, FT4, FT8, you name it!

So come on by one Thursday evening soon, and see what the club has to offer for operators to get on the air with state-of-the art gear and great antennas.

-Mike **W7MKE**



Photo by Mike **W7MKE**





**THE FIRST EVER W7DK NATIONAL SASQUATCH AWARENESS** Special Event is officially in the books, and it was a smashing success! Also known on the bands this past weekend as "The Bigfoot Special Event," the club had 24 operators covering all non-WARC bands, from 80 to 10 meters, using the common modes—CW, SSB, and Digital (FT mostly but some RTTY). In total, we contacted all 50 US states, 89 countries, and 871 grid squares, for a grand total of 14,252 QSOs in 1,564 combined hours of operating!

Last month, our club's POTA coordinator, BJ **K07T**, proposed the idea of a club special event to commemorate the day. He organized call signs **W7B**, **W7I**, **W7G**, **W7F**, **W7O**, and **W7T** to spell "Bigfoot," using **W7O** twice. The call signs were requested to be valid from October 16 UTC to the end of the day on October 21st UTC.

Operators were assigned different days and times to call "CQ Bigfoot" on prearranged bands and modes. Those working the W7x stations were all in the hunt to "capture Bigfoot" by working as many letters as possible. BJ and I decided it would be fun to require stations to work the letter "O" twice—one for each "O" in the word Bigfoot. They could work the second on any other band, mode, or UTC date.

While I was designing the certificate, I thought having a "clean sweep" award would be fun, and thus was born the "Full Stomp"!

Many stations excitedly proclaimed after their last needed QSO, "I did it! I just got my Full Stomp!" as they achieved the goal of working all the letters,

while others were still on the hunt, saying, "I still have two more letters before I get my Full Stomp."

As an operator in the event, I'm sure I'm not alone in saying how fun it was to be the QSO that elicited that response from someone!

A huge thanks to all the operators for their time and effort, and to the thousands of participants worldwide who helped make this event a resounding success... which we can now officially call "THE FIRST W7DK Sasquatch Day Special Event!"

Not only is there the full-color 8.5" x 11" certificate, but BJ also created a seated Bigfoot graphic, wearing a headset as he sits in the forest playing radio, that will be used for the QSL card sent out to stations who request it!



Above: QSL card front

Below: Full-color certificate with all letter stamps filled in







WHAT FOLLOWS ARE PICTURES OF THE MANY OPS in their shacks during the event, as well as the final statistics. The next phase will be the onslaught of QSL card and certificate applications that soon will flood the club's PO box! Huge thanks to all 24 operators, to the Coordinator BJ **KO7T**, and above all to the 14,252 operators who worked Sassy and helped make this such a stunning event! If you didn't send a photo of your Bigfoot setup, that's OK—use the email address below to send it to me and I will run any additional photos as space allows next month.

-Dave **W7UUU**



Jim **N7MU** operating as **W7B** as one of the CW operators

## Meet the Operators



Club Membership Chair Mike **W7XH** operating FT8 from the W7DK Clubhouse Flex Station as **W7T**



Mike's son Jeff **W7JSJ** at his fine station in Roanoke, Virginia. Jeff operated every single one of the Letters **W7B**, **W7I**, **W7G**, **W7F**, **W7O** and **W7T** during the event! Nicely done, Jeff.







## Meet the Operators



Mike **W7MKE** working **W7T** at the clubhouse  
Flex station operating position



Top-notch CW op Dan **K7MM** operates  
as **W7T** at the IC-7610 position



Paige **W0FLZ** had a great time operating  
as **W7G** from Stanwood—Thanks Paige!



One of the [Camp Quest NW](#) counselors,  
Eman **KK7QLW** was one of the **W7O** stations.





## Meet the Operators



Radik **AA7DA** from Fife took on the letter **W7I**—thanks for your efforts Radik!



Creator of the event, and coordinator, **BJ KO7T** at his station running all letters



Dave **W7UUU** was visiting grandkids in Michigan when the event started—surprisingly enough, the rental house already had a Bigfoot on the floor-to-ceiling chalkboard! Total coincidence!



**W7UUU** got a late start (Friday of the event) but still managed to pull in 1066 contacts operating the event as **W7O**. This was a real blast and the pileups were insane!







The Final Results are IN!

Stats courtesy: BJ K07T, Event Coordinator

BAND	CW	PHONE	DIG	TOTAL
80	0	17	377	394
40	47	798	861	1656
20	316	4999	2063	7378
15	105	1282	1239	2626
10	135	1039	1224	2398
TOTALS	603	8085	5764	14252

CALLSIGN	CW	SSB	DIGITAL	TOTAL
W7B	198	715	515	1428
W7I	1	1656	337	1994
W7G	29	315	1404	1748
W7F	1	1852	1600	3453
W7O	73	1978	819	2870
W7T	301	1569	1089	2959

	Overall Statistics
US States	50
Countries	94
Total Hours	1564
No. of Operators	24

AL N7OMS SENT IN THIS NICE BLURB OF HIS EXPERIENCES IN THE EVENT

Bigfoot Special Event 2024 Thoughts—by AL N7OMS

My most recent experience with the Radio Club of Tacoma has to do with a crazy idea to celebrate Bigfoot. Have I ever gone on a Bigfoot hunt? No, but my hiking experience in the Pacific Northwest has given me a healthy respect for what could be in those great forests that surround us.

I was successfully recruited by Gary W67X to be on his team that included myself N7OMS and Adam W2NCC. He called us the Mighty Fine Fellows of W7F. The goal was to work a minimum of four hours a day. For me that meant when I got up in the morning, which was from anywhere from 5 to 7, I would get on the air and work around five or six hours. It evolved that I would spend a little time on 80m, switch to 40m, and then end up on 10m where I spent a majority of my time.

For me, this was a great opportunity to put my station through a pretty good test. For 80 and 40 I used a Butternut antenna that is positioned on the roof of my garage. For 10, 15 and 20 I went to a Cushcraft A3S at about 35 feet in the air. I ran my amplifier for an average of 300 watts. I used N3FJP AC Log to handle uploads to QRZ and sent a final log to the creator of Bigfoot 2024, BJ K07T.

Thank you to my outstanding teammates and all who helped in the search for Bigfoot whether you believe or not.

-73, AL N7OMS

CALLSIGN	Operators
W7B	W7MU, W7JSJ, K07T, N7TES, W8NGS
W7I	W7JSJ, K7MO, K07T, KK7NYW, K67DFW
W7G	W7JSJ, AD7MA, K07T, KC7YYZ, KC7RTB, WB4SPB, N9MII, W0FLZ, KD7SV
W7F	K07T, W7JSJ, W67X, N7OMS, W2NCC
W7O	K07T, W7JSJ, W7UUU, KK7QLW
W7T	K07T, KK7LKK, KK7QND, W7JSJ, K7MM, W7MKE, W7XH







## Open House Reminder!

**THIS IS JUST A WELCOMING & REMINDER** that the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma Clubhouse holds an open house on most Saturdays of the year (click [HERE](#) for exclusions) from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There's always a nice group of members but ALL visitors interested in amateur radio are welcome to stop by! You do not have to be a member or even a ham to visit us. Please be sure to sign the Visitor's Logbook in the kitchen, say hello to your Clubhouse Host, have a cup of coffee and a donut (always a nice assortment on hand). You may wander the building—visiting the classroom, the downstairs “shack parlor” we call The Lou Room, and of course upstairs to see the main HF room and the [W7OS Doc Spike Memorial museum](#)—a living collection of vintage gear that regularly gets on the air.

The last Saturday of every month, we hold a mini flea market where members can sell their ham gear. But even non-members are eligible to dicker for deals and take home gear. And starting around 11:30, our club Chef Paul W7PFU serves up free chilidogs, or sometimes burgers or spaghetti at the chef's whim. We hope to see you stop by soon!

■ -editor

## Mini-Swap Meet Monthly

**DO YOU HAVE EXCESS GEAR TO SELL?** Members of The Radio Club of Tacoma have a little perk every month with our own mini Swapmeet held in the clubhouse on the last Saturday of each month. No charge for a table—just bring your wares and set up shop! Non-members and visitors are free to stop by and see if they can pick up bargains. The club also has gear donated regularly that is made available to visitors and members alike, available for purchase via donation. And of course, as mentioned in the Open House reminder, the club chef Paul W7PFU cooks up chilidogs or spaghetti (whatever suits his mood!) at no charge for guests. -editor



W7DK Clubhouse Kitchen on a recent Saturday







## How To Lock The Doors

**AS WAS REPORTED** in last month's Bark by our club Secretary, Gary **WG7X**, in recent months there have been reports of the clubhouse being found unattended and the doors not even locked! Obviously, this is not acceptable. It's the responsibility of the Club Hosts on Open House Day (Saturday) or those who have door and alarm codes on other days to make certain the building is secure when leaving.

But should you be in the position of being the "last one out", you can still LOCK THE DOOR even if you don't have the code or a key. Simply pull the door closed and push the "lock symbol". The battery-powered mechanism will then lock the door (you won't be able to get back in without the code!). This applies to both the front door and the back door. See photo below—note the "lock" button.

-Dave **W7UUU**



## Help Keep The Clubhouse Clean

**THIS IS JUST A GENTLE REMINDER** that the W7DK Clubhouse is for all members to use and enjoy, and is a place to put our best foot forward as a club for visitors we welcome in almost every Saturday of the year.

Please be mindful of leaving trash, empty cans or bottles, food wrappers, McDonalds bags, and whatever else. Same holds for coffee cups... we frequently see cups left on classroom tables, the kitchen counters, at the Lou Room table, and wherever else. Please just make sure to "pick up after yourself". Also, remember that liquids and radios don't mix. Please don't take cans or cups of beverages into the HF room or the Museum—just water bottles with lids or closures of some sort. And no "sticky foods" like donuts! No one wants to reach for the tuning knob only to find your sticky donut residue on it!





# THE WAY BACK PHOTO BOOTH

Highlighted photos from the club's past

*Researched & Compiled by the Editor*



Archive Photo



• JUL • 70



Another of the many photos the club has in its vast archive is from the July 1970 Ham Fair held at the Tacoma Sportsman's Club in Spanaway, Washington\*. This is a members-only club many miles south of Tacoma, WA but with members who were also hams in the Radio Club of Tacoma. For a number of years, the club rented out space for the annual Ham Fair (which is what RCT called its ham fest). The Sportsman's Club was a frequent RCT venue for events. In this photo, a large number of attendees are flooding in as the gates open first thing in the morning. The lad in the foreground right, in the white shirt and light pants has been identified as Don Wilkinson **WA7OYN**. The rest in the crowd have yet to be identified.

The Sportsman's Club is still there and can be found [HERE](#).

\*This is a re-run of the August, 2024 Wayback photo—but new information came to light





# THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

Always check the W7DK website for latest news



W7DK

October		November, 2024				December	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
44 October	October	October	October	October	1	2	
3 <a href="#">10m Social Net</a>	4 <a href="#">Slow Speed CW Net</a>	5 <a href="#">Tuesday Nite Net</a>	6 07:00pm Board meeting	7	8	9 01:00pm General meeting ...	
10 <a href="#">10m Social Net</a>	11 <a href="#">Slow Speed CW Net</a>	12 07:00pm VE License Exam ... <a href="#">Tuesday Nite Net</a>	13	14	15	16	
17 <a href="#">10m Social Net</a>	18 <a href="#">Slow Speed CW Net</a>	19 <a href="#">Tuesday Nite Net</a>	20	21	22	23	
24 <a href="#">10m Social Net</a>	25 <a href="#">Slow Speed CW Net</a>	26 <a href="#">Tuesday Nite Net</a>	27 <a href="#">4th Weds. Activity</a>	28 	29	30	
<a href="#">Recurring</a>   <a href="#">Special</a>   <a href="#">Contests</a>   <a href="#">All Categories ...</a>							

## Did you know?

November gets its name from being the 9th (from the Latin *novem* meaning "nine") month in the [calendar of Romulus](#) in 750 BC Rome. It kept its name even after being moved in later centuries to be the 11th month. In the Southern Hemisphere it's the seasonal equivalent of May to those of us in the Northern Hemisphere and vice versa.





# RCT Bulletin Board

Posted notes and other important stuff

Here's a **useful tip** when reading the Bark: if you want to view a link, "right click" > "Open link in new window"... that way you won't lose your place in the Bark!

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The Logger's Bark does not use ChatGPT or other AI creation sites to *write* articles. Sometimes graphics are AI generated out of need for license-free images, but **NEVER** is the text... we don't allow any AI written articles ■ -editor

It's come to my attention that some readers think the POTA/SOTA/Youth or EmComm sections are for W7DK stuff only. **NOT TRUE!!** I will happily take submissions from anyone who wants to share their stories!!

Last Month's Hidden Word: **Hilberling**  
It was hidden in the Ham Tech article on page 81. See if you can find this month's Hidden Word and win some QRZ stickers mailed directly to you!

PREVIOUS CALLS  
3418 NO. 19th STREET, TACOMA, WASH., U. S. A. W7OS/1927  
W7TAWK  
RADIO  
AUD QSA 5 UR STN W7D HR A TONE 7  
FREQUENCY 7.140  
XMITTER A  
TUBE R  
CRT R  
VOLTS R  
INPUT L  
AERIAL  
REMARKS  
A SPORT OB QSL  
CARD PRINTED ORIGINALLY 1927)  
VY73  
GLD TO QSO ANITIME  
DR. F. CLIFF

W7OS  
40 meter dipole  
Thank for nice CW contact  
A R L  
RECEIVER  
TUBES  
CRKT

July 16 1975  
QCWA #651  
LOGGER #14

RETURN TO  
HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@radiocluboftacoma.com







**HUGE THANKS TO** Mr. Bruce Horn, **WA7BNM** for publishing his "[Contest Calendar](#)" for all these many years... a truly wonderful resource for finding virtually every ham radio contest on Earth that might be happening, in most any mode and most any region in the world. Follow the link to take you to the site, then sort through the various options to find the specifics

of every upcoming event. For now, here's the **WA7BNM** Contest Calendar for the this month. Click the calendar below to visit Bruce's site directly.



#### November 2024

+ ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 2 to 0300Z, Nov 4
+ High Speed Club CW Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Nov 3
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Nov 5
+ PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint	0000Z, Nov 9 to 2359Z, Nov 11
+ WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 9 to 2359Z, Nov 10
+ 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	0001Z, Nov 9 to 2359Z, Nov 10
+ JIDX Phone Contest	0700Z, Nov 9 to 1300Z, Nov 10
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Nov 9 to 2359Z, Nov 10
+ OK/OM DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Nov 9 to 1200Z, Nov 10
+ CQ-WE Contest	1900Z, Nov 9 to 0500Z, Nov 11
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Nov 11
+ LZ DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 16 to 1200Z, Nov 17
+ All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	1600Z-2359Z, Nov 16
+ REF 160-Meter Contest	1700Z-2359Z, Nov 16
+ South American Integration Contest CW	1800Z, Nov 16 to 2100Z, Nov 17
+ ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 16 to 0300Z, Nov 18
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Nov 17 to 0100Z, Nov 18
+ NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, Nov 21
+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 23 to 2359Z, Nov 24
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Nov 27





# The Phone Patch

## A Brief History



MARS operator at Marine Corps  
Logistics Base Albany, 1983.

Photo: Wikipedia, SSGT Dave Smith,  
Public Domain

K7MQ Collins 312B-4  
Photo: W7UUU





## ONE OF THE MOST MANUFACTURED HAM RADIO

devices ever conceived that is virtually non-existent today is the Phone Patch. Outside of perhaps the code practice oscillator, no other accessory for a ham shack was produced in greater quantities and by more manufacturers than this device. What is a phone patch you ask? It's a fairly simple audio interface between a ham transceiver (usually using SSB but could as easily be AM or FM as well) and a wired telephone line. It allows a ham operator to "patch" the audio from a phone call into the transmitter and receiver accordingly to allow the telephone audio to be sent and received as if the person on the phone were actually in the radio room with the ham operator using his gear.

The basic concept of connecting radios to the telephone lines dates back to the early 20th century, not too long after radio became popular. In 1925, the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) was established by the U.S. Army Signal Corps to recruit and train civilian ham radio operators to aid in military communications. But it wasn't until the post-WWII years that phone patching caught on in a big way with the ham radio community, and not just for MARS purposes.

The early 1950s saw the mass marketing of simple phone patch devices to hams in the MARS program to handle communications from soldiers stationed abroad during the Korean War. These hams played a critical role in relaying combat soldiers' voices from the battlefields of Korea to their families back home.

But it was the Vietnam War (1955-1975) that drove the mass adoption of phone patches in the ham world. Not just hams involved in the various MARS programs, but the ham community in general realized that "handling traffic" by using a phone patch was a great public service. Hundreds of thousands of phone patch devices were sold by virtually every manufacturer of ham gear: Heathkit,

Kenwood, Swan, Drake, Collins, Yaesu—you name it—just about every name you can think of in ham radio came out with a phone patch during the Vietnam War years.

In MARS use, by 1966 more than 14,000 calls were made monthly between Vietnam and the U.S., which was a crucial morale boost to the troops in combat zones. At its peak around 1970 some 200,000 phone patch calls were handled

yearly by 450 military MARS stations working with over 11,000 civilian ham operators. And virtually every SSB-equipped ham shack in the U.S. and elsewhere had a phone patch on hand, connected to the home phone line, should the need arise to make a long-distance call for a non-ham friend or family member.

After the war, the huge demand for overseas phone patch communications dropped greatly. Hams of course still handled such communications as part of EmComm operations, and as a public service. But as a result of the "long distance phone plan" competition following the breakup of the phone company, and big advances in phone technology in the 1980s, making direct long-distance phone calls became vastly cheaper and further







eroded the need to use phone patches in ham radio. There was a period of resurgence in the 2m FM repeater "Autopatch" technology of the late 1970s into the 1990s (and still to some extent today) - whereby a ham could connect to a phone line via 2-meters and make a phone call. HF phone patches *most certainly* still occur, and many via the MARS network. But phone patching to the degree seen during the Vietnam War era would never return. And one by one, the manufacturers dropped the devices from their product offerings.

What follows is a rundown of some of the most common *and* the most obscure commercially sold phone patches from the glory days of the technology. Many of these are from the collection of club member Nick Winter, **K7MO**. Big thanks to Nick for letting me take pictures of all of his great old phone patch boxes in his collection (as noted; other examples from my collection & from the web).

## A TOUR OF VINTAGE PHONE PATCHES



Collection of Nick Winter **K7MO**  
Photo by **W7UUU**

**Sonar Radio Corp.** was a Brooklyn, NY company founded in the mid-20th century. They produced a wide range of products but early on got in on the phone patch market with the Model 24 seen here. During the CB craze of the 1970s, they sold a number of CB radio models. Alas, when that fad faded, so did Sonar Radio which didn't survive into the 1980s. But their legacy lives on with fans around the world. If you use Facebook, you can visit the [Sonar Radios fan page HERE](#).

**This is the Tel-O-Patch** that dates to the early 1960s. Continental Electronics & Sound Co. (CESCO) made mostly radio accessories such as the "Transicheck" SWR meter and things like antenna switches. They were another niche product vendor chasing the growing phone patch market spurred on by the growing conflict in Vietnam and the need for phone patch comms.



Collection of Nick Winter **K7MO**  
Photo by **W7UUU**



Excellent video from 1970 showing how a very typical Vietnam War era MARS phone patch would be conducted. Collins was the go-to brand for MARS at the time and many MARS stations were so equipped. Click on the image to view.





Collection of Nick Winter K7MO  
Photo by W7UUU



Collection of Nick Winter K7MO  
Photo by W7UUU

**The Heath Company** of Benton Harbor, under the Heathkit brand, introduced their model HD-19 in kit form in 1960 and it was a big seller at the introductory price of \$35 (\$336 in today's dollars!) due to the cost savings of DIY labor. It was replaced in 1966 by the hugely popular HD-15 phone patch as shown below. The HD-15 sold well into the early 1980s and is by most accounts I've read, far and away the most popular phone patch product ever sold into the amateur radio market. It's almost impossible to walk a ham fest today without seeing at least 5 or 10 of them for sale for as low as \$2 (the knobs alone are worth more than that on eBay!)



Collection of Dave W7UUU  
Photo by W7UUU

Even today, these are considered top performers and can be used very effectively, with just minor modifications, as an audio interface for digital modes, owing to the very high quality audio transformers they contain. Another great use for old HD-15 phone patches is to use the box for other homebrew projects. I've done this a few times over the years.

**Mars Model LE-2...** Mars was the amateur radio products arm of a small electronics firm formed in 1960 in Eugene, Oregon (later moved to California) called The Pausan Company. They provided a range of amateur radio accessories and equipment under the Mars name, ostensibly to take advantage of the burst of demand for phone patches in the 1960s and 70s. They also sold SWR meters, station consoles, and even a few mobile HF transmitters. All products were OEM sourced from Japan and were known for decent quality. Pausan ceased operation in the early 1980s but the products are still easily found used.

**Yaesu** offered several phone patches over the years, but they were all called "Landliner" (or LL in the model number). This is the Landliner 310 which is pretty much the same product as all the rest of the patches on the market but in a vertical form factor to neatly sit alongside the matching FT-301 or FT-301D transceiver.



Web photo used under Fair Use clause  
Photographer unknown





**Robert L. Drake** company in Miamisburg, Ohio was one of the early “big names” alongside Heathkit to enter the phone patch market in the 1950s. Called the High Patch, sort of a play on the term “Hybrid patch” as such technology was often called, it was first introduced in the late 1950s and went through a few revisions over the years, but most of these changes were cosmetic. The schematics were for all intents and purposes the same.



**R. L. Drake P75** phone patch was the final culmination of pretty much the same design, but radically restyled to match the state-of-the-art late-1970s Drake TR7 transceiver line... one of the true pioneer transceivers of its time, offering 100 watts solid state power, no tune output, and total frequency agility from 1.8 to 30 MHz. It was a natural that the TR7 series would be put into MARS use and many were, outfitted with a P75 phone patch.



**Kenwood PC-1A**, yet another name-brand contender to offer a phone patch. But they were very late to the game, releasing the PC-1A around 1978 to match the TS-820 and TS-520 station lineups. As with all such devices, the basic functions were pretty much always the same.





Collection of Nick Winter *K7MO*  
Photo by *W7UUU*



Collection of Nick Winter *K7MO*  
Photo by *W7UUU*

**Nye Viking Company** was founded by William Nye in Bellevue, Washington in 1945. The company focused on producing high-quality products such as HF, VHF, and UHF antennas for amateur and commercial uses, as well as antenna tuners and other small ham accessories. Probably their most famous product category was Morse keys for ham use. These are still bought and sold today and in use in thousands of shacks. And of course, they also sold a phone patch introduced in the 1970s.

**Barker & Williamson** or B&W, started making ham radio gear in the 1930s, specializing in antennas, antenna switches, and accessories but eventually got into major products such as the 5100 transmitter. The PP-101 Hybrid Phone Patch was introduced in the mid-1960s to meet the exploding market for phone patch devices. They had a very strong reputation among hams and the PP-101 was a big seller. But like all the others, by the early 1980s, the decline in the phone patch market led B&W out of the ham radio market entirely. They are still around today but only in the commercial and military markets.



Collection of Nick Winter *K7MO*  
Photo by *W7UUU*



Collection of Nick Winter *K7MO*  
Photo by *W7UUU*

**KWickPatch** by the E. A. Rasmussen Co. in California was just another opportunistic product in the 1960s to ride the phone patch craze. They were never a big name in ham radio, only supplying niche products such as power supplies, impedance matching devices, and other shack accessories. The KWickPatch was likely by far their best selling product and these are often found at ham fests.

**E. F. Johnson** was one of the true heavy-hitters in the amateur radio market in the 1950s, with the Viking and Ranger transmitters being hallmarks of that era for hams. So they were an early player in the phone patch tech as well. EFJ ultimately faded, and by the mid-1960s was out of ham radio and only making CB rigs and some commercial products with only mild success in later years. After several acquisitions, the name is still around but no longer active in hobby electronics.





Web photo used under Fair Use clause  
Photographer: Nationwide Radio

**Yaesu SP-101BP** Landliner version that matched the vast FT-101 series of transceivers, and was somewhat unique in the aspect of housing the phone patch circuitry in a box large enough to also hold the station speaker. This made the SP-101BP much more desirable, even if the ham who bought it never intended to work a phone patch.



Collection of Nick Winter K7MO  
Photo by W7UUU

**Swan FP-1** was yet another big brand entry to the phone patch market from Swan, with early versions appearing during the boom of phone patching during the mid Vietnam war years, but tapering down when the early 1970s came to a close, and swan disappeared from the ham radio market before the war ended.



Collection of Nick Winter K7MO  
Photo by W7UUU

**Gonset GPP-1** is arguably the most beautiful and stunning of all phone patches ever sold. First sold in the late 1950s, it perfectly captured the styling and chrome elegance of cars like the [1958 Buick](#) and many others of the era. It's as if founder Faust Gonsett (two letter "t" in his name but not the company name) knew that most phone patches were essentially identical, so he went for *top-end style*... \$50 then put his patch at the top of the heap ... that's roughly \$540 to-day. This is my own favorite phone patch of all time!



Collection of Nick Winter K7MO  
Photo by W7UUU





SB-634 Collection of Dave W7UUU  
Photo by W7UUU



SB-630 Web photo used under Fair Use clause  
Photographer: Nationwide Radio

**Heathkit and Collins** were both well-respected higher-end manufacturers of ham gear, with complete station lineups of transmitters, receivers, and transceivers. Heath products of course were kit-built, and much less costly than Collins which made them popular with hams. As was the trend during the 1960s and 1970s, such companies wanted to offer hams complete station lineups with many options. The “station console” became one of the most popular of such accessories, after the matching desktop speaker. Collins started this trend, with the two consoles seen below—the 312B-5 (left) with an external PTO (external tuning dial), directional coupler SWR/wattmeter, a speaker and a phone patch. This model was designed for the KWM-2A transceiver. The 312B-4 (below right) had all that the 312B-5 did, except for the PTO, as this was intended for use with the Collins S-line separate transmitter receiver.

Heathkit was quick to follow this trend, and offered the SB-630 console (top right) that featured an SWR/wattmeter, 10-minute ID timer, 24-hour clock, and of course a phone patch. This unit matched all of the SB-line products—receivers, transmitters, and transceivers. When the SB-104 debuted in 1974, soon appeared the SB-634 station console. This unit was functionally identical to the SB-630, with a digital clock instead of mechanical, a larger meter, and a nearly identical phone patch.

But the gold standard for the actual MARS stations, especially during the later Vietnam years, well into the 1980s, was always Collins gear. With few exceptions, the military MARS stations all used the Collins KWM-2A transceiver paired with the 312B-5 phone patch, or a full-blown Collins S-line (32S-x transmitters and 51S-1 series receivers) using the 312B-4 phone patch. The beauty of the hybrid phone patch technology is that it makes little difference which interface you use—they are all mutually compatible, even to this day.



Web photo used under Fair Use clause  
Photographer: Not known



Collection of Nick Winter K7MO  
Photo by W7UUU





## SO HOW DO PHONE PATCHES WORK?

**A Hybrid Phone Patch** (regardless of brand or model, modern or vintage) is simply a device that allows two-way voice communication between an amateur radio station and a public telephone network. For this explanation, I'm referring to what is probably the most popular phone patch ever sold: the Heathkit HD-15, sold from 1965 until 1983. The key to any

operator must manually select "transmit" to send audio from his end, and then switch to "receive" to hear audio from the far end. With careful adjustment of the "null" setting, VOX (voice operated transmission) can be achieved but both speaking parties need to still be mindful of not "talking over each other". In practice, most operators running a phone patch will instruct each participant to use the term "over" so that the conversation can be better controlled by the operator.

Connection of any phone patch is about the same: a wired connection to a phone line brings the bal-



*Rear panel of the Heathkit HD-15 phone patch showing connections*

*Photo by Dave W7UUU*

phone patch device is what's called a "Hybrid Circuit". This type of circuit uses a high-quality multi-tap audio transformer (T1 in the case of the HD-15) with a network of resistors and capacitors to balance impedances and audio levels and most importantly, prevent feedback. When such a balance is achieved (by careful setting of the receiver audio level for the incoming radio audio, the transmitter mic gain for sending speech to the "far end", and the Null control which zeroes out slight differences), both parties can talk and listen at the same time. Of course, when using radios to do this, there can only be audio one way at a time in practice, as the

anced 600-ohm telephone audio into the transformer, where it is directed appropriately depending on which end is talking and which end is listening. The transformer network is what accomplishes this.

Even today, it's still very possible to use amateur radio for a phone patch. Many internet providers and modems offer "analog telephone" service. Even though it's not really analog (being digitized to become Voice over IP, or VoIP), as far as a phone patch device is concerned, the wire from the ISP modem is no different than a Ma Bell phone line from the 1960s.



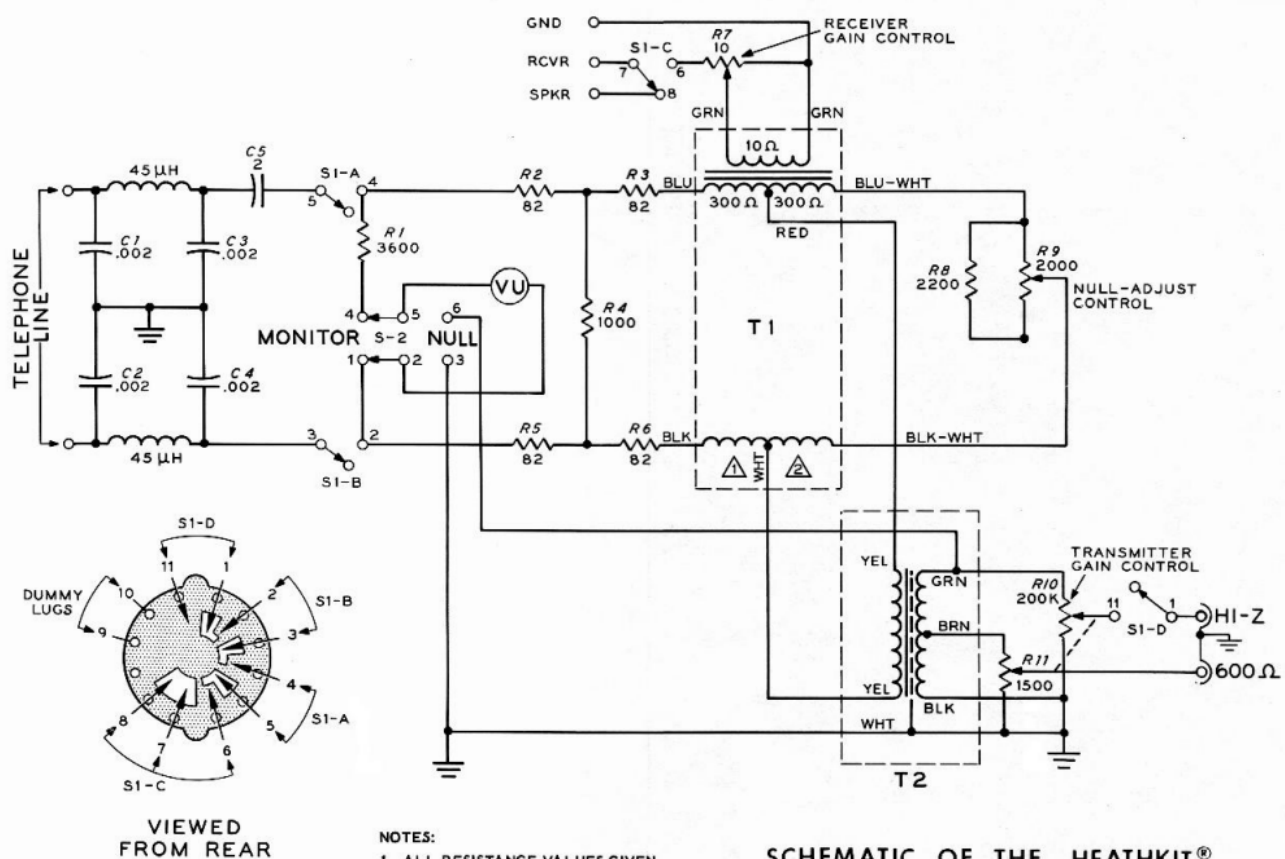
# The Phone Patch

## A Brief History

FEATURE  
Article!

### HEATHKIT HD-15

### SCHEMATIC



SCHEMATIC OF THE HEATHKIT®  
HYBRID PHONE PATCH  
MODEL HD-15

While this is the schematic for the Heathkit HD-15 (©Heathkit, used for educational purposes under the fair use clause), it's representative of how pretty-much all "hybrid phone patches" work. Very early phone patches were not "hybrid" (only capable of "simplex" operation) meaning they simply switched audio from the incoming phone line to either 'transmit' or 'receive' but couldn't handle duplex audio (as manifested in a VOX circuit of a ham transceiver). So if you want to use VOX, you need to source or build a true hybrid circuit with a null control—although VOX in a phone patch is *seldom* very practical owing to extraneous noise triggering it, and the need to readjust the Null frequently. ■ -Dave W7UUU



# THE W7DK ELMER BOARD

Do you have a skill or tool to help new hams?



W7DK

**YOU! YES YOU!** Do YOU have a skill you could pass on to new amateur radio operators? Do you possess a skill or piece of gear that you're willing to share with others to fix antenna problems, diagnose noise issues, drive a ground rod, teach Morse, help teach technical topics? If the answer is YES you too could be a W7DK Elmer!! Let any

officer know what your skills are or how you could help new hams get a leg up on the hobby. And if you're one of those already on the list, are there any changes we should be aware of? If so please hit the email address (found bottom of page on the right) and let us know so we can update the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma "Elmer Board".

**NEW HAMS OR MEMBERS:** If you are looking for help, and NEED AN ELMER to help guide your way, use this table! Find the skill you need on the left, then look for an Elmer Provider of that skill on the right and reach out to them. ALL of these Elmer's have committed to helping so please don't hesitate.

## Elmer Board

Do you need help with some area in ham radio?

### List of members' areas of interest.

1. Technical questions, Classes
2. Help with Code
3. License Examinations
4. Antenna and Station planning
5. Antenna and Tower erection
6. Buying new or used equipment
7. Equipment repair
8. Understanding and operating your equipment
9. DX and Contests
10. Club and ARRL activities
11. Using test equipment
12. IRLP, Digital, SDR, ARPS, Winlink, Vara, Satellite
13. Understanding How Electronic Circuits Work

### Name/Call Sign /Phone Number/ Topic

Adam W2NCC 360-870-7894 (4,5,6,7,11)  
 Dave N7HT 253-363-1692 (1,2,4,6,8)  
 Steve AF7YD 253-988-087(1,2,7,10,11,13)  
 Dave W7UUU 253-820-0890 (2,4,6,9)  
 Al N7OMS 253-495-9068 (10,12)  
 Mike W7XTZ 253-405-8095 (6,8,10)  
 Stephen AD7AB 253-212-9437 (1,3,4,12)  
 Randy WB4SPB 253-761-9391 (2)  
 Phil K7PIA 253-307-4781 (9,10,12)

*Note: Providers or users of the Elmer Board must be local to the Radio Club of Tacoma. This is a local club service for our local members only. Thank you!*



# HOMEBREW & KITS CORNER

Radio homebrew projects both large & small



**THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTION FOR THIS COLUMN** comes from our new member from Mayfield Village, Ohio, Fred **K8IG** who sent this to me in the last few days, in time to be published in the November issue! I always welcome such contributions and all you need do is shoot me an email (address below) with your suggested article. Without further ado, here is Fred's really nice review of the [4 State QRP Group QRP tuner kit](#) -editor

## CONFESSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF AN ADDICT

Okay, I admit it. I am a recovering (*kit builder*) addict. I fondly recall the hours spent reading well-crafted instruction manuals, inventorying the copious parts, contemplating the assembly process, envisioning the finished project and, as a final step, delighting in a project's passage of 'the smoke test.' I valued the craftsmanship that was embedded in my newly created test equipment, audio equipment and ham radio gear. While those golden days of kit building have become rarer, they haven't disappeared entirely. Or so I thought.

One further admission. I am a QRO guy... not QRP. Guided by Part 97, I use the power necessary to achieve the QSO. At 82, I find more enjoyment in the reliability of QRO stations, though

I appreciate the dedication it takes to work with QRP. But then it happened. Wandering into the [4 State QRP Group](#) (also called Four State) website ([www.4sqrp.com](http://www.4sqrp.com)), what should appear to my wondering eyes...an eye candy kit. David Cripe, **NMOS**, has designed a visually inviting and fully functional QRP tuner/coupler offered only in kit form. Alas, to satisfy my kit craving, I succumbed and bought the QRP tuner kit (\$45 + USPS shipping). The finished project is pictured here, perhaps destined to become a shelf display. Recall I said that I don't do QRP!

**A few comments about the kit** and the tuner/coupler are in order. While the manual is functional, a few updates could enhance its clarity. The assembly steps refer to pictures that could benefit from more definition and context. The instructions begin with the winding of the toroidal inductor, though it could clarify whether the toroid is viewed from above or below, as this may affect the winding direction. The manual could include more details on wire type, gauge, and insulation, which were not included in the shipment. There seems to be an error with the switch lug identification in the manual, but a quick call to David **NMOS** clarified the correct assembly. Once the toroid is wound and installed, the installation of the discrete components is straightforward. The top, bottom, and four sides are easily assembled to form the enclosure by soldering adjacent panel tabs together.





## HOMEBREW & KITS CORNER

Radio homebrew projects both large & small



**The finished product** has a sleek black panel (see photo, previous page), which differs from the green tuner pictured on their website. While the black finish is appealing and professional, it would be great if they updated the site to reflect this change. The BNC connectors are robust and firmly mounted. The unit is equipped with two LEDs (red and green). The green LED indicates forward power, while the red LED shows reflected power. Through the tuning process, the green LED shines brighter as you optimize forward output, and the red LED dims as you minimize reflected power. Tuning is easy and intuitive, and it's fun to dial up the green brilliance and down the red brilliance once the appropriate inductor step has been selected on the 12-step switch.

The manual reports that the maximum power throughput has been tested at 10 watts: perfect for QRP! While the insertion loss is (when properly matched) reported as 'low,' the loss is not specified. The author used a Bird 43 wattmeter with a 5-watt slug to verify performance.

**The look and feel of the tuner/coupler unit is both professional and fun to use.** And while it may be a temporary fix for my kit-building addiction, this QRP tuner has certainly left a lasting impression.

-Fred **K8IG**

### Soldering Practice Kit

**\$13<sup>95</sup>**



**THIS IS THE TEACHING KIT** that was used in the October 23rd Wednesday Workshop at the clubhouse. (Photos and writeup of the event will appear in the December issue of *The Bark*). This is a wonderful kit on several levels: it's a great way to teach soldering to those who have never soldered, the builder learns some basics of how electronics works in a practical way, and it's just fun to build something and see it work! (The kit builds a flashing light European siren). It comes with all the parts needed (except a 9v battery). In this, the first such series of "How to build it" classes, the club sold out the 12 seats in a matter of a couple of days! The entry fee of \$15 simply covered the cost of the kit and a battery. If you'd like to read more about this neat little Elenco kit, you can find them sold on eBay or from Jameco Electronics at [THIS LINK](#).

-Dave **W7UUU**



## COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

A look back at the cool gear of the past

By Dave W7UUU

**THIS MONTH'S COOL OLD RIG** is something of an icon for “Hams of a Certain Age”. No, I was not a ham in 1948! But when I was a 13-year old Novice in 1974, in the time before my license came in the mail, I would pour over the old ARRL Handbooks and QST, CQ, and 73 magazines looking for fun projects that I could dream of building. And this “wood slat” transmitter, as it has become known as over the decades, just seemed like the coolest project ever to me.

Originally published in December 1946 QST and The Handbook in 1948, the design was by R. O. Deck Jr., **W9JVI**, and written up by long-time ARRL staffer Byron “By” Goodman, **W1DX** (SK in 2004).

The design is pretty straightforward, a simple one-tube crystal oscillator. But the project itself began something as a challenge. Mr. Deck challenged **W1DX** if QST would want an article on a viable transmitter project that would cost the builder less than \$5! In fact, the final article billed it as “The Most Inexpensive Transmitter—A Complete Crystal Oscillator for \$3.95” (about \$45 today). That’s a little bit disingenuous though... that price only included the parts for the transmitter but did not include the 6V6 tube or a power supply! (Wood bits were assumed to be free).

The title sidebar reads “*there must be a trick to it. There is, but it rates as the neatest trick of the year*”. And indeed it was *quite* a trick—the builder would be required to use as his station receiver for the tube and the power supply—a receiver that used a 6V6 audio amplifier tube, and had headphone audio that was derived before the AF power amp (so that signals could still be heard). The builder would then assemble the power-cable to tap power from the



1946 ‘Wood Slat’ transmitter  
modern interpretation  
Photos: Dave **W7UUU**

donor receiver for HV and filament power. Among the recommended receivers were the Hallicrafters SX-15 Sky Challenger (\$69.95 or \$900 in today’s money), SX-16 Super Skyriders (\$111 or \$1,455 today), and the SX-17 “Special Model” of the Super Skyriders at a measly \$137.50 (\$1,800 today). So the “trick” was simply “you will need to have a really superb expensive receiver to make this work”. However, it would certainly have been possible to source an “entertainment grade” table radio that



## COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

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used a 6V6 for the audio amplifier, that would also have a suitable power supply for the transmitter. That would certainly reduce the cost if one was starting from scratch.

I'm sure that more than one reader may have felt taken in a bit by the line "A complete Crystal Oscillator for \$3.95" because that was obviously not the case! Byron does go on to tell potential builders they could also just build up a 350v power supply

and fully assembled. At the time of this writing, there are two "Slatboard" transmitters for sale on eBay. Of course, like most things eBay, the prices in my opinion are pretty silly. A few careful trips to ham fests should yield all the parts necessary to duplicate such a transmitter for a fraction of the cost of the commercially sold kits. Wait until the last hour or two of the Swapmeet when sellers are tired, want to go home, and don't want to pack their goods back up and haul them to the car. That's

when I've had the best of deals on parts and pieces! Many times, in fact, for free just because I was willing to ease their burden.

The slat board transmitter that I have come to have in my shack has an unknown origin. But just my gut sense tells me it's not old... it was most likely built in the last

which was certainly a more cost-effective option for most hams, just as it would be today. The "use the receiver's tube and power" was really just a gimmick to drive the challenge and I doubt anyone took it very seriously.

Just like the Ameco AC-1 transmitter (profiled in the [March 2024 issue of The Bark](#) on Page 76), the nostalgia for the Wood Slat Transmitter is *strong*. Both transmitters have in fact been reproduced a number of times over the years, both in kit form

20 years or so. It's possible it was one of the various eBay kits over the years but of course there's no real way to know.

It was found by Jim [W7LS](#) at the Sea-Pac ham fest last June, who then passed it on to first one member of the club. He then passed it to one of our regular contributors, Rich [KR7W](#), who made some very nice improvements: he added a loading capacitor, recessed the controls, added an external plate-current meter for "dipping the plate", refinished the



Power supply



## COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

### A look back at the cool gear of the past

By Dave W7UUU

wooden chassis parts, added a safety barrier for the power cable terminal strip, and as a final touch applied nicely-printed labels to the controls and jacks. It's downright fancy looking now! After Rich was done with it, he returned it to Bob **K7MXE**, who then traded it to me as part of a swap for a lawn mower!

So how does it perform? I have to say, quite nicely actually! Depending on the crystal I use I can get anywhere from a low of 2 watts to as much as 6 watts of 40-meter RF output. With proper tweaking of the "dip" tuning control, and the spacing of the tank and output coupling coils, a very respectable CW note can be achieved. There is just a slight amount of signal instability—I wouldn't really call it "chirp" or "whoop" and it's perfectly usable on the air.

I will be operating this rig with a vintage BC-348Q loaner (thanks to the W7OS club museum manager!) in the upcoming Classic Exchange. I hope to work some of our readers in that event! Click the image below for a link to hear it operate. For now, 73! - Dave **W7UUU**

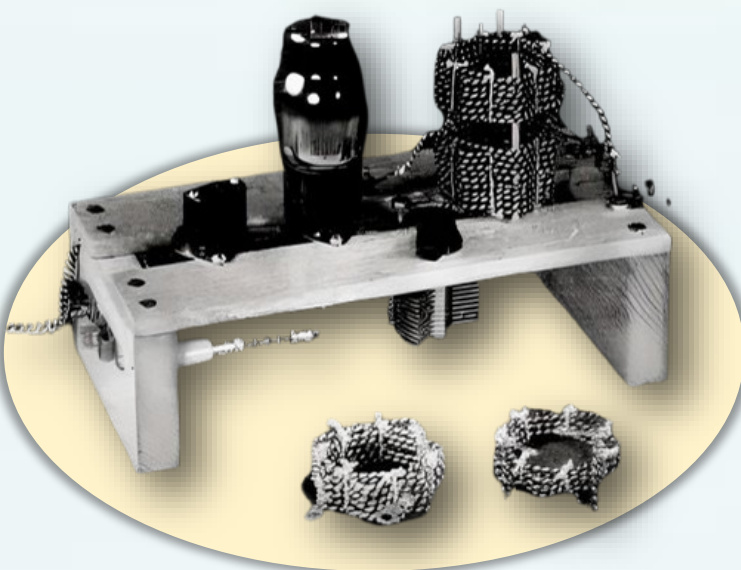


Photo and schematic (©ARRL, Inc.) of the original transmitter project as it first appeared in *The 1948 ARRL Handbook*. The version I have had a few minor improvements in its past but is essentially the same thing.

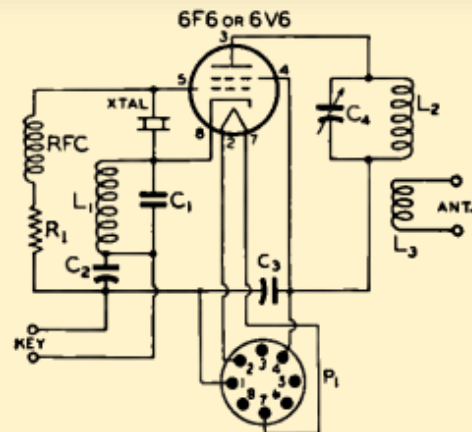


Fig. 6-35 — Wiring diagram of the inexpensive easy-to-build transmitter.

- C<sub>1</sub> — 470- $\mu$ fd, mica.
- C<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>3</sub> — 0.01- $\mu$ fd, 600-volt paper.
- C<sub>4</sub> — 140- $\mu$ fd, variable (Hammarlund SM-140 or Bud MC-1876).
- R<sub>1</sub> — 0.1-megohm 1-watt composition.
- L<sub>1</sub> — 5 turns No. 18 d.c.c., 1¼-inch inside diameter, close-wound.
- L<sub>2</sub> — 3.5 Mc.: 19 turns, 7 Mc.: 12 turns.
- L<sub>3</sub> — 13 turns and 6 turns. Requires experiment — see text. See text for L<sub>2</sub> and L<sub>3</sub> winding instructions.
- P<sub>1</sub> — See text.
- RFC — 2.5-mh. r.f. choke (National R-100U).



# MIGHTY DK! QSO REPORT

Reporting all the HF QSO action from the club



W7DK

**EACH MONTH** in the Bark, the Radio Club of Tacoma recognizes the members and guests who have made non-contest QSOs using the HF stations at our clubhouse. [Saturday Open House](#), especially, is a time when members have access to this equipment. Why not sit down at one of our operating desks and make a contact or two? Assistance is almost always available for those unfamiliar with the equipment, and if your license class doesn't permit HF operation, ask the denizens of the HF Room or the Saturday clubhouse host to help you find a suitably-licensed control operator to sit with you. It's a feather in the club's hat for the call sign of The Mighty DK to be heard on the airwaves. So get on the air and get your name in the Bark! (Don't forget to *enter your call sign as the operator* into our logging program.) ■ -editor



**Above:** HF Room Flex 6600 & Mercury III

**Below:** HF Room Icom IC-7610 & KPA-500

## Clubhouse QSOs during this period:

NAME	CALL	QSOs
Mike	W7MKE	59
Sam	KK7USO	8
Mike	W7XH	3
Becky	KG7FZH	1



Photos this page provided by

Dave **W7UUU**

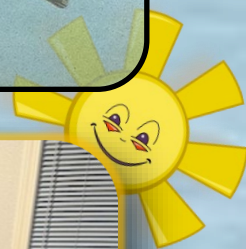


# THE SALMON RUN

Washington State QSO Party

**Photos and Stories from Participants!**

W7UUU



**Adam W2NCC**



**Randy WB4SPB**



**Phil K7PIA**



**Mike W7XH**



**Phil K7PIA**

**Just a handful of the operators of The Mighty DK during the 2024 Salmon Run contest!**

Photos submitted by Adam W2NCC





# THE SALMON RUN

Washington State QSO Party

Photos and Stories from Participants!

W7UUU



This is the tidy shack of club Secretary, Gary **WG7X**.

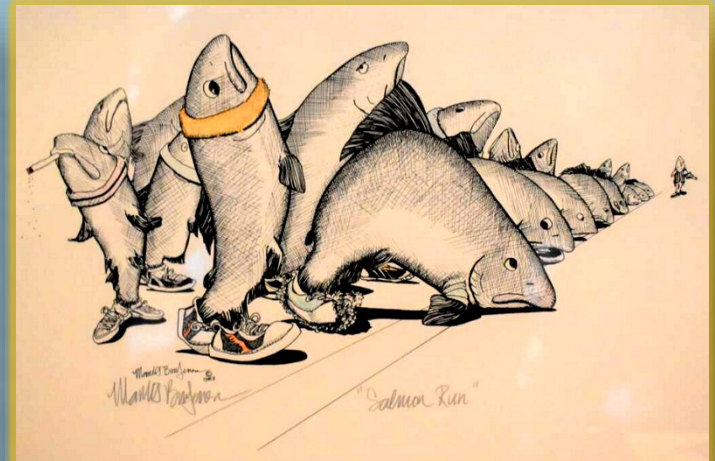
**Says Gary:** "Here's the rundown from my effort from home. I worked 142 QSOs and got all 39 counties for a Clean Sweep. With 65 multipliers, my total score was 18,460".



Here's me, your Bark Editor **W7UUU**, in my shack for Salmon Run. This year just for fun, I entered the "Single Operator CW QRP" category. During 9.5 hours (over both days) I racked up 215 QSOs and 71 Multipliers for a total score of 45,795—which should put me in pretty good running for winning SOCW QRP.



Rick **KR7W** operating on the Asotin-Garfield line during Salmon Run, using his WW7LW club call. Between Rich and his partner in crime, Chuck AC7QN, they racked up 316 QSOs, 689 QSO points, 47 multipliers and a total score of 32,383 points! And best of all in the last 2 minutes got Pacific County for a CLEAN SWEEP! Nicely done!



The salmon are all lined up at the starting line for the "Salmon Run"; the starting-gun tender awaits in the distance. One of the fish is a tad offside in anticipation... others are clearly distracted by cigarettes, their own fashion-sense narcissism, and general apathy to the race in general.

*Lithograph—"Salmon Run" by Mark Burgener, Soldotna Alaska, 1987—art collection of W7UUU*



# THE SALMON RUN

Washington State QSO Party

Thanks to Our Salmon Run Donors

W7UUU

## Thank you

As most know, The Salmon Run is our club's biggest fundraiser of the year and goes a long way to paying the costs of running our organization and keeping our clubhouse in ship shape.

The following are the generous donors for 2024—a big thank you to each and every one on this list!

AA7KL AB7DG AC7KP AC7QN AC7WW  
AD7AV AD7CC AD7VL AE7PC AG7EZ  
AI7FP AI7OZ K7BTC K7CBE K7DBU  
K7FDR K7FI K7GCA K7HTU K7OSS  
K7PIA K8IG KA7IOX KA7NWF KA7WGE  
KB8KB KC7PS KD7OWN KD7QBE  
KD7SV KD7VWM KD7WLR KF7GPO  
KF7KSW KF7YEL KG7LNZ KG7ZYB  
KI7GOC KJ7BDL KJ7CEZ KJ7MPD  
KJ7SJM KJ7YSX KK7BMF KK7FLZ  
KK7IYT KK7RFI KK7VH KK7VHG KK7VHJ  
KT1A N6CHU N6TO N7ANN N7QOZ  
NU7G NY6W W7CBC W7HUA W7JFF  
W7LKG W7MKE W7MWF WN7AWK  
W7PFU W7SSN W7UUU W7XH W7XTZ  
WB4SPB WB7EC WG7X WX4C

List reflects donors on record as of Bark editorial cutoff date of October 15th. Donors after that date will be listed in the December issue

## Waxing Poetic

### THE RUN OF THE SALMON

#### *A Northwest Story*

The river winds through forests deep,  
Where cedars stand and shadows sleep.  
Beneath the peaks, the salmon come,  
Timeless journey, this beating drum.

They leave the wide Pacific's might,  
To seek the stream thru ancient rite.  
Against the current, strong they strive,  
A surge of silver; fierce: *alive*.

The mossy banks, the pines above,  
All watch the run in quiet love.  
The ferns bow low, the water's chill  
Whispering tales of nature's will.

Through rocks and rapids, every twist,  
They push upstream, where waters mist.  
No force can hold their primal call,  
To spawn, to die—fulfill it all.

The bears will fish, the eagles dive,  
And yet the cycle stays alive!  
For in their death, new life will grow,  
The forest fed by streams that flow.

O, watch the salmon's noble quest,  
In autumn's gold, they do their best.  
And in their wake, the rivers sing  
Of ancient life, eternal spring.

-Anonymous







Got a ham radio funny? Send it in!



# HOW'S DX?

## DXpeditions and Notable DX operations



WEB

# NG3K Upcoming DXpedition Calendar

Courtesy Bill Feidt, **NG3K**  
used with permission

2024 Nov01	2024 Nov15	<b>Cocos Keeling</b>	<a href="#">VK9CV</a>	OK6DJ	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20240630	By OM5ZW OM4AYL OK6DJ OK2ZA OM3PC OM4MM OM4MW VK5GR OM5RW; 160-10m; SSB FT9 RTTY QO-100
2024 Nov02	2024 Nov09	<b>Maldives</b>	<a href="#">8Q7TR</a>	OE1TRI	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20240925	By OE1TRI fm Kagi I; HF; SSB FT8; holiday style operation
2024 Nov05	2024 Nov12	<b>Cayman Is</b>	<a href="#">ZF2KM</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20240911	By W9KM fm Grand Cayman I; HF; CW + digital
2024 Nov07	2024 Nov24	<b>South Cook Is</b>	<a href="#">E51SGC</a>	LoTW	LZ1GC 20240816	By LZ1GC LZ5QZ fm Rarotonga I (IOTA OC-013); 160-6m, focus on 160 80 60m; CW SSB FT4 FT8 RTTY; 3 stations; QSL via E51SGC OQRS or LZ1GC (B/d)
2024 Nov08	2024 Dec12	<b>Fiji</b>	<a href="#">3D2TP</a>	PA3CBH	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20240905	By PA3CBH fm Suva; HF; SSB CW; spare time operation
2024 Nov11	2024 Nov16	<b>French Polynesia</b>	<a href="#">FO</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20240925	By N5LCP as FO/N5LCP fm Bora Bora I (IOTA OC-067); 20 15m; SSB FT8; QSL via N5LCP
2024 Nov11	2024 Nov20	<b>Sao Tome &amp; Principe</b>	<a href="#">S9Z</a>	TBA	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20240709	By N4XP 5B4AQN CT1BOL CT1EEB HI8RD I8NHJ KH7U KJ7KOJ K0IR K3VN N2WB N6MZ WB4JTT W7YED; 160-6m; SSB CW + digital, + 432 EME; hex beams; tall verticals
2024 Nov14	2024 Nov20	<b>Palau</b>	<a href="#">T8</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20240909	By JH1OLB as T88DT and JH1FFW as T88RC; HF; SSB FT8
2024 Nov15	2024 Nov23	<b>French Guiana</b>	<a href="#">FY</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20240926	By WE9G as FY/WE9G fm Matoury; 80-6m, incl 60m; mainly FT8 FT4, some SSB CW; QSL via Club Log OQRS or WE9G (B/d)
2024 Nov15	2024 Dec04	<b>Rotuma</b>	<a href="#">3D2Y</a>	M0OXO	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20240501	By W6IZT K4NHV M0SSDV KD9LSV LY7J W2FQ; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8; 5 stations; QRV for CQWW DX CW
2024 Nov16	2024 Nov29	<b>Wallis &amp; Futuna</b>	<a href="#">FW7AA</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20240920	By W7YAQ K7AR fm Wallis I; 160-6m; 2 stns; QSL via W7YAQ; QRV for CQWW DX CW
2024 Nov19	2024 Nov26	<b>Chatham Is</b>	<a href="#">ZL7YL</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20240824	By ZL4YL; HF; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2024 Nov19	2024 Nov29	<b>St Martin</b>	<a href="#">FS</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20240905	By KC9EE as FS/KC9EE fm Orient Village; HF/bernie@dailydx.com
2024 Nov25	2024 Nov29	<b>Gambia</b>	<a href="#">C5T</a>	EA5GL	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20240817	By EA3NT EI5GM EI9FBB MM0NDX MM0OKG; HF, incl 60m and 6m; possibly fm IOTA AF-060 using C6I
2024 Nov25	2024 Dec06	<b>Tonga</b>	<a href="#">A35GC</a>	LoTW	LZ1GC 20240816	By LZ1GC LZ5QZ fm IOTA OC-049; 160-6m, focus on 160 80 60m; CW SSB FT4 FT8 RTTY; 3 stations; QSL via E51SGC OQRS or LZ1GC (B/d)
2024 Nov30	2024 Dec02	<b>Fiji</b>	<a href="#">3D2NB</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20240920	By W7YAQ K7AR; 160-6m; QSL via W7YAQ; QRV for CQWW DX CW
2024 Nov30	2024 Dec13	<b>St Martin</b>	<a href="#">TO9W</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20240506	By K9EL K9NU W9MR W9AP; HF; CW SSB FT8 FT4 RTTY; QSL via W9ILY (B/d), direct w/ 2.5 USD

Click anywhere on the table above to visit Bill's site directly—the hyperlinks will be active there.



# STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

## "Statistics: The Grammar of Science"

-Karl Pearson, English mathematician & statistician



W7UUU

### From the QRZ Survey Center

? What HF bands are you currently able to operate with success?

Edit

* 160	<div><div></div></div>	26 vote(s)	28.3%
* 80	<div><div></div></div>	56 vote(s)	60.9%
* 60	<div><div></div></div>	24 vote(s)	26.1%
* 40	<div><div></div></div>	82 vote(s)	89.1%
* 30	<div><div></div></div>	58 vote(s)	63.0%
* 20	<div><div></div></div>	83 vote(s)	90.2%
* 17	<div><div></div></div>	68 vote(s)	73.9%
* 15	<div><div></div></div>	79 vote(s)	85.9%
* 12	<div><div></div></div>	61 vote(s)	66.3%
* 10	<div><div></div></div>	79 vote(s)	85.9%

**THIS IS AN INTERESTING** and somewhat revealing survey from the QRZ Survey Center forum. I started this survey back on September 16th, and today being October 16th, it presents a nice 1-month sampling of the antenna capabilities of users of QRZ.

I would have expected the results as they turned out for 40 and 20 meters—the two bands that roughly 90% of all hams have antennas for. But other bands however are something of a surprise to me—most notably that more than 25% of hams are able to “operate successfully” on the 160 meter band. 30 is also interesting, given there is no SSB allowed (in IARU Region 2 where the US is situation—only a few places in Region 1 allow SSB). That means there are a lot of CW and digital operators on that band. Thanks to all who voted!

-Dave W7UUU

What are your current actively-in-use tube gear preferences? Choose ALL that apply:

Edit

* I have at least one tube transmitter or transceiver that I use (includes hybrids)	<div><div></div></div>	52 vote(s)	52.0%
* I have at least one tube receiver that I use	<div><div></div></div>	31 vote(s)	31.0%
I ONLY use tube ham gear in my primary station (not counting modern HTs, mobiles, etc.)	<div><div></div></div>	4 vote(s)	4.0%
I used to own and use tube gear but it's all sold and I won't be getting more	<div><div></div></div>	17 vote(s)	17.0%
I actively use tube gear (transmitters, receivers, test gear, etc.) that I built myself	<div><div></div></div>	14 vote(s)	14.0%
I only use tube gear on my test bench - not for my main station	<div><div></div></div>	0 vote(s)	0.0%
I have never owned tube gear but might try it someday	<div><div></div></div>	8 vote(s)	8.0%
I have never owned tube gear and will never own tube gear	<div><div></div></div>	8 vote(s)	8.0%
* I build or buy small 1-3 tube QRP homebrew tube transmitters or regen receivers, keyers, etc.	<div><div></div></div>	8 vote(s)	8.0%
None of these answers fits my situation - read my comments below	<div><div></div></div>	5 vote(s)	5.0%

**THIS IS A GLIMPSE** into how many hams still use tube gear in their shacks, and to what extent. Of course, the “aging demographic of hams” reflects heavily in this. It’s interesting that more than 50% have at least one piece of tube gear in their shacks.

-Dave W7UUU





# AROUND THE SHACK & SHOP

## Little tips for when you get a round TUIT!

### Panel Meter Design Software

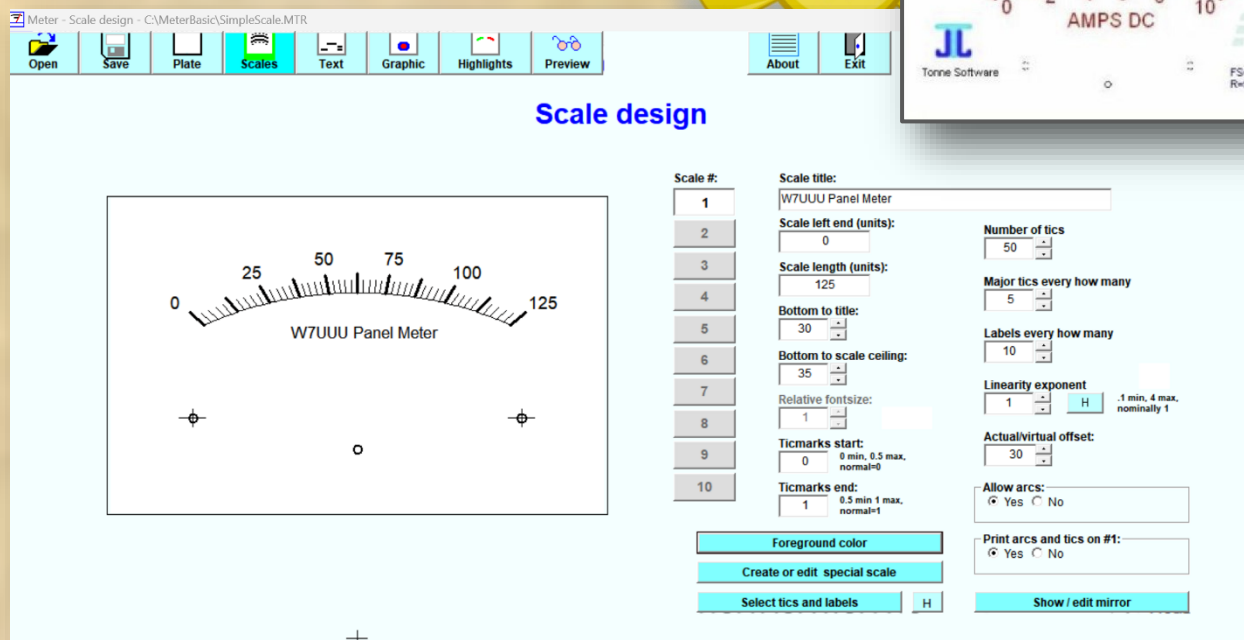
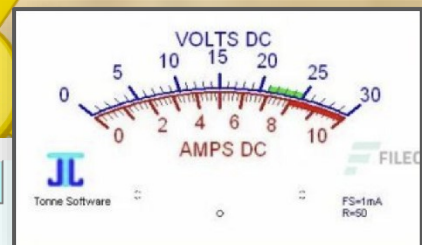
**DO YOU HOMEBREW PROJECTS ON YOUR BENCH** that require a panel meter but you don't have one that is suitable? There is a free (for the basic version) program that will allow you to design and print a custom meter scale for just about any application. All you need is a panel meter with a suitable rating such that applying an appropriate shunt will result in a full-scale reading to meet your needs. The program is called "[MeterBasic](#)" by [Tonne Software](#) and the basic version is totally free, although limited. You will need to source a meter that can be shunt-fed for desired range, then use the software to create a custom faceplate for it. Basic meter scales for many projects can be had with just the free version. There are of course limits: the Basic edition only allows a single scale, and it must be linear. So you can't do logarithmic scales such as for S-meters and dB VU meters. Other limits apply as well. In the large image below, you can see a typical meter scale design that matches an old Weston rectangular meter I had in my junkbox.

The basic Meter software is more than adequate for the simple label that was required.

But if you need a higher level of functionality, you could consider the \$55 upgrade to "[Meter](#)" which is the fully-blown version and unlocks all the features of the software. You can now design pretty much any meter faceplate you desire—multiple scales, colors for different parts of the arcs and scales, unlimited fonts, and all aspects of the scales are adjustable. In addition you can insert graphics, colored backgrounds, and have meters in any scaling including logarithmic, center-zero, reverse, etc.

The inset photo below shows an example of the full unlocked Meter program creation of a full-color multi-scale power supply meter. If you design and build projects calling for meters, it may well be worth the \$55 investment. You can learn about this cool software at [THIS LINK](#).

-Dave W7UUU





# STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

## Fun Stuff for Hams to Read



W7UUU

THE FOLLOWING POEM WAS SENT TO ME by Matt Anderson, **KA0BOJ**, as a tribute to Silent Keys and our memories of them. Thanks to Matt for sending this in—*editor*

**Says Matt:** "Silent Key is a term of final endearment originally given to telegraphers of the past who had died. Silent Key denoted that their key was no longer active.

As time and technology moved forward the Amateur Radio Community adopted this to acknowledge ham radio operators who had passed and became a Silent Key"

## Silent Key

There was a time when the sounds had flowed from your radio room. A melody to you, and to some a cantankerous noise.

But what a wonderful sound. A melodious harmony and rhythms known to a few, but to you a symphony of your own creation. Carrying your thoughts and feelings across town and around the world.

As times changed you picked up a microphone and shared your hours with friends known and unknown. But you always came back to the key you knew so well.

And now you are gone. The key knows no melody. The symphony is silent. We remember with fondness the sounds that flowed from your room, and we are now greeted with silence.

But now, your signals are perfect. 599 and perfect tone. Your key is now golden. Your creator now listens to the symphony we used to enjoy and smiles. Embraces you and shows you the heavens where your symphony now roams.

—Matt Anderson **KA0BOJ**

## Did You Know?

THE VERY FIRST 7th DISTRICT QSL BUREAU was actually located right here in Tacoma, WA and the manager of that bureau was W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma member Larry Kelly, **W7BPC** who lived at [4919 South Prospect street](#) in Tacoma—a house that had been built in 1926, and during the years from 1933 to 1936, served as the Incoming QSL Manager for the 7th Area QSL Bureau! Most likely, he was the original owner of this great old house.

Larry joined our club in 1931 as member #227, and relinquished the ARRL 7th Area QSL Bureau duties in 1936. Outside of that, not much is known about him. —Dave **W7UUU**



Photo by Dave **W7UUU**





**THIS MONTH'S BARK FEATURES A SUBMISSION** *that comes from Rich KR7W, a long-time past member who now lives near Idaho Falls in Southeast Idaho. What follows is his account of his first POTA activation. -editor*

On Sunday, October 6, I participated in my first POTA activation. At around 2000 UTC, I was set up at [Park US-11311](#), the [Graves Creek Recreation Management Area](#), a [dispersed camping area](#) next to the Blackfoot River. The only amenity in this park is a nice, single-seat enclosed pit toilet. Nope—no kids' play area, fire pits, BBQs, or picnic tables. Bring your own!

Near here in SE Idaho, there are many U.S. Federal Government, Department of the Interior [Bureau of Land Management parks](#) (known as The BLM to folks in the [Mountain West](#)). There are five BLM POTA parks within an hour's drive of my home QTH.

My POTA station setup is just like being an Expedition Station in the Salmon Run. A Honda generator powers the rig and PC. The POTA antenna system is a 6-foot piece of PVC pipe that elevates my 17-foot SOTA collapsible fishing pole to about 25 feet, which supports the center of a lightweight 20-meter inverted-V dipole. The radio I used is an [Elecraft KX3](#) with a [KXPA amplifier](#), running about 50 watts.

Logging was accomplished with the Salmon Run laptop using [N3FJP's AC Log](#) with a POTA template. Unlike others, this logging program allows me to use F keys that play canned CW messages and a "CQ POTA" audio file for SSB. The recorded messages were helpful.

**71 CW and 30 SSB QSOs** were made on 20 meters in about two hours. One thing that stood out was that hams answering my CQs were polite—which was easy

to notice on SSB. There was no bullying to make a contact. When I would call, "The station that ends in Zulu, please," *only* the Zulu station would pipe up. The others waited for my QRZ. Also, many hams seemed amazed to make contact with Idaho. "Wow, Idaho. A hard-to-get state, thanks." Or on CW: "FB FB ID ID TU dit dit." A couple of hams offered to spot me on the POTA website, which added a personal touch to the activity.

The term "Risk vs. Reward" has been useful in my life. Most of the time, I morph it into "Effort vs. Reward," where I can easily evaluate if I will do the activity again. As for activating POTA sites—yes, I had fun, and I'll be at another park out in The BLM soon. Remember Dick Clark's American Bandstand "[Rate a Record](#)"? I'd score this POTA activation an 85, as I liked the beat and it was easy to dance to.

-Rich, KR7W







ON A RECENT SUNNY AFTERNOON, Anne **N7ANN** and I (**W7UUU**) headed to one of our favorite “radio picnic and POTA” parks—US-3248, Penrose Point State Park. It’s a pretty vast park at 237 acres on the shores of Puget Sound, in an area called Lakebay on the Longbranch Peninsula. There’s a full two miles of saltwater shoreline, as well as miles of winding hiking trails in the surrounding forest.

There are two great spots for POTA activations depending on your preference. As you enter the park, there’s a “T” in the road. Turning right takes you down to the main beach parking and picnic area. This is a great spot on a sunny day if you like being more out in the open. There are plenty of picnic tables, both down near the water, as well as very close to the parking lot for those who can’t carry gear too far.

But if you turn left at the “T”, you end up in a much smaller parking lot and a very secluded picnic area on the bluff overlooking Puget Sound, facing roughly Northwest. See the photo showing a prime table location.

My usual POTA rig is an Icom IC-7300 with an LDG-Z11 auto-tuner that interfaces with the Icom. For an antenna, I use a 99” MFJ telescoping whip mounted on a lightweight but very sturdy folding plastic sawhorse. Not the most compact antenna, but super fast to set up... 3 minutes from unfurling to having the radials deployed and coax to the tuner. It also stands



strong winds very well. With the tuner, it works great on all bands 40 and up, and it easily fits in the trunk of the car. We always bring a picnic lunch, and have a nice picnic before firing up the rig. On this activation, I made 17 CW contacts and 14 on FT8 for a total of 31 QSOs. I seldom use SSB for POTA activations unless there’s no one else around... I don’t want to “be that guy” yelling “again again? The 8 station please?”. This was my 21st POTA activation, and was my second time at this park. If you’ve never been to Penrose, I invite you to take a nice country drive out to see it. Just don’t forget your Washington Parks “Discover Pass”!

-Dave **W7UUU**



Table location down by the beach



Table location on the bluff overlooking the water



# EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

## Amateur Radio EmComm News & Topics

Doug AB7DG



**YOU'D HAVE TO BE LIVING UNDER A ROCK** to not be aware that a series of horrific storms pummeled the Eastern U.S. in recent weeks. With a death-toll of 130 from Hurricane Helene and at least 23 from Milton, and thousands out of their homes due to destruction, this year's hurricane season has been one of the worst so far in years. As of this writing, millions are still without power and they have a very long wait until it is restored.

What follows is a summary of events with many convenient news links as gleaned by The W7DK EmComm Reporter, Doug **AB7DG**. ■ -editor

**As Reported by Doug:** Amateur radio operators were vital aids to victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton and to emergency officials in late September and early October. News coverage was extensive:

[How to stay in touch when the grid goes down: ham radio, Wi-Fi, and other lifelines during disasters](#)

The Citizen, Fayetteville, GA

[Amateur radio operators vital as Florida braces for Hurricane Milton](#) WEARTV.com Pensacola, FL



Click image to watch [WEAR TV](#) News video of hams at work

[Forget cell phones -- amateur radio shines in the wake of Helene](#) WCNC, Charlotte, NC

[Ham Radio Helps Hurricane Helene Rescue Operations](#) Design News

[Triangle families desperate to reach loved ones missing after Helene; Ham Radio operators help relay messages" CBS17.com](#), Raleigh, NC

[Through Hurricanes Helene and Milton, Amateur Radio Triumphs When All Else Fails](#) Wired.com

Most of these articles describe ham radio operators assisting with welfare messages--assuring loved ones that the hurricane survivor is safe. Other vital services provided by hams are assisting emergency management officials to get field reports, resource requests, and other communications. Assisting such officials normally requires that hams had previously trained with those officials as members of an EmComm organization such as Amateur Radio Emergency Services ([ARES](#)) or a Department of Homeland Security [AUXCOM](#) group.

**But all hams can assist** their neighbors and survivors in nearby shelters with welfare messages to their loved ones. Possibly the most effective manner to assist them is by using the I-am-Safe Program that involves simple Winlink templates and, in some cases, assistance by the Radio Relay International (RRI) volunteers. Information about the I-am-Safe program is at <https://radiorelay.org/iamsafe/>, and in my previous Bark articles that are now accessible at <https://w7dk.org/emergency-communications>.



# EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

## Amateur Radio EmComm News & Topics

Doug AB7DG



During hurricane season, there can be lots of radio activity that is interesting to monitor. ARRL has an article with some information, [Ham Radio During Hurricane Season](#). There are specialized nets and other resources (the features and capabilities of which I've yet to understand) on [The Hurricane Watch Net](#) and [VoIP Hurricane Net](#) that warrant exploring. The former operates a net to receive and share damage and other storm reports on 7.268 MHz and 14.325 MHz as propagation allows. You might monitor those frequencies during hurricane events, but don't transmit on them unless you have specific relevant information.

In late September with western North Carolina devastated by Hurricane Helene, a savvy ham operator fed the welfare traffic from a local VHF repeater in the affected area to [Broadcastify.com](#), enabling anybody with the link to monitor it. It was interesting. During hurricane events, you might search for interesting UHF/VHF traffic on [RadioReference.com](#) and [Broadcastify.com](#).

There have been interesting anecdotes in an online [discussion group](#) among EmComm leaders. One recently described disaster response officials having delivered Starlink systems to an EmComm site without any setup instructions. It was up to the hams to figure out how to setup and use the systems. The experienced hams from Hurricane Alley have a lot of useful information to share.

While we don't have hurricanes in Western Washington, we had a damaging [Columbus Day Storm in 1962](#), and we live with the threat of an catastrophic [Cascade Subduction](#) Zone earthquake. And lately, there's been

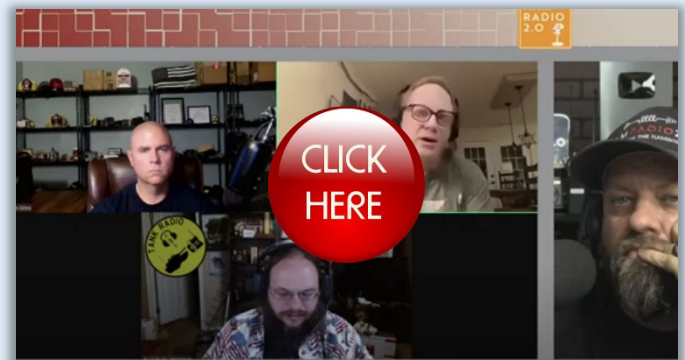
unusual seismic activity on Mt. Adams. So we could have a significant disaster at any time. Get prepared to help, if you can.

Doug Schafer, [AB7DG](#), Radio Club of Tacoma's EmComm chair.

### Selected YouTube Videos Showing Ham Radio Coverage of Hurricane Helene



*OM0ET YouTube Channel: Hurricane Helene watch net as recorded during the event—14.325 net in operation*



*Ham Radio 2.0 - How Net Control Radio Operators saved lives after Hurricane Helen with [K2DMG](#) and [K4SWL](#)*



# STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fun stuff for Hams to read!



W7UUU

## Hidden Word Contest

This month's "hidden word" is actually your editor's Novice call sign: **WN7AWK**. It's hidden in plain sight somewhere in this issue of The Bark. Be the **first** to find it and I will send you free of charge an envelope of cool bumper stickers! But this page doesn't count!



This is my first Novice shack as **WN7AWK**. The green radio on the left is a Heathkit HW-7 that I built myself in January 1975 while waiting for my license to arrive (I passed my Novice tests in December, and my license arrived in March!). QRP (1.5 watts) and a lousy receiver but I made contacts! The radio on the right was a Montgomery Ward's channel 14 "kids toy 100mw base station" I used to talk to a kid across the street on his walkie talkie. And the wallpaper? Oh, my mother loved her wallpaper—every room of the house! -Dave **W7UUU**

## Famous Ham November Birthday

**NOVEMBER 22 MARKS WHAT** WOULD have been the 94th birthday of amateur radio operator and astronaut Owen Garriott, **W5LFL** (SK 2019). He served in the U.S. Navy as an electronics officer from 1953 until 1965 when he became an assistant professor of electrical engineering at Stanford University. He went on to earn his PhD in electrical engineering. He later joined the Air Force and entered the Pilot Training Program, and ultimately joined NASA where he rapidly advanced in the astronaut program as one of six "scientist astronauts", and flew his first mission aboard Skylab 3 in 1973.

But it was his second mission as an astronaut that Garriott made ham radio history. Space Shuttle mission STS-9 of the shuttle Columbia, Owen became the first person to operate amateur radio from space using his call sign **W5LFL**. The radio he used was a special-modified Motorola MX-340 2-meter HT running 5 watts simplex.

The first such contact was with Lance Collister, **WA1JXN** (now **W7GJ**). Garriott went on to make a contact with **JY1**, the King of Jordan and also an avid ham himself.

If you Google his name, there's a wealth of cool stories and information about Garriott's STS-9 mission and the contacts that he made that paved the way for hams to work astronauts!

Did YOU work Owen? If so, shoot me an email and tell me the story and I'll publish it! -Dave **W7UUU**





# STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fun stuff for Hams to read!



W7UUU

**NEW**

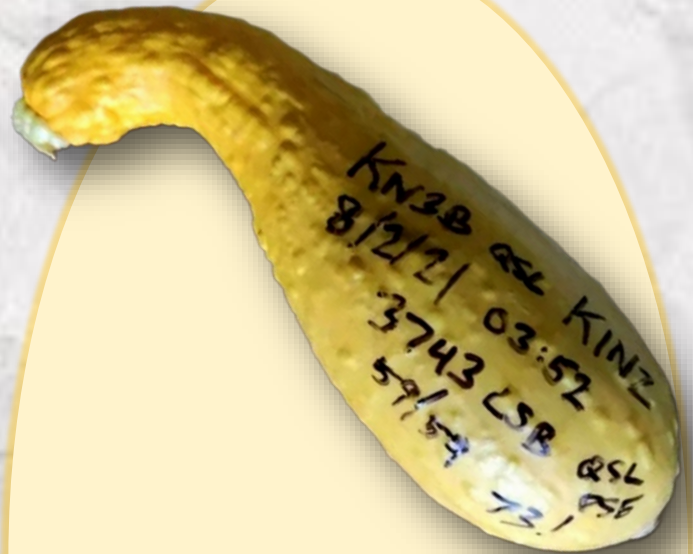
## Hidden Picture Contest

The “Hidden Word” contest has been a big success so I thought why not add another? New for this month is the Hidden Picture contest. This month’s object is that torturous tool of ham radio nightmares, the legendary **Wouff Hong**—more or less as pictured below. It’s hidden in plain sight somewhere in this issue of The Bark. Be the **first** to find it and I will send you free of charge an envelope of cool bumper stickers! But *this page* doesn’t count! I usually award three sets of stickers: one set to the first club member, one set to the first out of WA state guesser, and one to the first non-U.S. guesser! So game on—go forth and find Waldo... so to speak! —editor



This is the Wouff Hong replica that hangs in the W7DK Club-house on the classroom wall (not very close to the original but certainly on the right track). It’s simply made from a natural tree branch that is pretty close to the right shape. But to this date, I have not found anyone alive who knows who made it, when it was made, and if there was a reason. I hope one day to learn these dark mysteries and write an article! —editor

## QSL Card of the Month



**THIS IS PROBABLY** the strangest QSL “card” ever! As found in a post on Reddit by **VE6LK**, it commemorates a QSO between Brad KN3B and Maz **K1NZ**. Says Brad: “I grew some crookneck squash, and used one to QSL with **K1NZ**. I think he ate it” to which another user responded, “Did he send back a potato?”. Brad’s reply, “No—an assortment of deli meats”. Alas, no photo was provided of how that QSL might have looked!





# W7DK LIVING HISTORIES

Member video interviews and profiles

W7UUU



AS MOST MEMBERS KNOW, the Radio Club of Tacoma has been around for a long time—founded in 1916. Thirty-nine years later, one of our members, John Kelley W7KKN (SK), worked at the local TV station KTNT. He knew his way around a camera and editing suite.

John loaded up his 16mm film camera and produced a pretty impressive film of our club's 1955 Field Day, during which we won top club score for the 7th District.

Although the original film was silent, KTNT's head announcer later recorded a voice-over, likely on an open-reel deck at the studio. Over the years, the film aged and the audio was transferred to various formats—eventually landing on a cheap Radio Shack cassette tape sometime in the 1980s.

The film itself was transferred to VHS, but during the process, some splices fell apart. A few clips were clearly lost, and others were pieced back together out of sequence.

In the 1980s and earlier, the film and audio were played together by starting the film and hitting "Play" on the tape deck—more or less in sync but not perfect. The last time anyone watched the two together was decades ago.

In August and September, I found the VHS tape and the cassette (thanks to member Nick, K7MO), and painstakingly reassembled them. What you'll see in the video is the result of that restoration effort. I

resequenced the film, fixed the splices, and used temporal shifting to stretch or shrink sections to keep the audio as aligned as possible. It was a lot of work, but in the end, it turned out great.

There are two short films here: the 1955 Field Day, complete with audio, and a 3-minute silent short at the end, showing how *different* hams were back then when setting up an impromptu tower for the 1957 Field Day!

I added a ragtime score to liven up that silent footage.

I can finally post this, because YouTube, in their wisdom, gave me a "copyright strike" for the original 1955 soundtrack—where KTNT had used a looped section of a 1942 recording of a Stravinsky piece. I had to wait 30 days for the "content creator" (the 1942 record label!) to respond. After 30

days with no response (surprise, surprise!), YouTube released the video to be publicly shared.

So here it is—a glimpse of what Field Day looked like in 1955. The audio is still a bit scratchy, but any further cleanup degraded the spoken word, so I left it as is. Even if you just skim through it, don't miss the second short film about the impromptu tower—it's pretty cringe-worthy by today's standards. Hams sure had a different attitude back then!

-Dave W7UUU

## W7DK Living Histories Project #11

### Radio Club of Tacoma Field Day 1955 Restored Film



CLICK HERE

Click picture to watch the video





This is the awesome shack Fred Freer, **K8IG**, a newly-joined full member of W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma, from Mayfield Village, Ohio. His gear represents many eras of ham radio and includes gear from Hallicrafters, Collins, E.F. Johnson, Hammarlund, National, Drake, and many other great old brands of the past. But he also runs a pair of Icom IC-7300s for SSB, RTTY, and FT8 modes. Fred is a true amateur radio Renaissance Man! Welcome to the Club Fred!



# TNT THE NEW HOT THING

Hot and new products to think about



W7UUU



**THIS MONTH'S NEW HOT THING** isn't actually available yet—but can be reserved for a \$35 downpayment at the usual sources (HRO, DXE, etc.) The Yaesu FTX-1F is Yaesu's entry into the world of ultra-portable ham radio transceivers, offering a range of features aimed at the POTA folks and those wanting "a lot of radio in one box". What this article will present are mostly the announced features—since there really aren't any field reviews (not that I could find). And just how it stacks up against the Icom IC-705, a popular rival in this category (which many of us, myself included, own and love).

**The Basics:** The FTX-1F is a QRP transceiver supporting HF, VHF, and UHF frequencies (160m to 70cm, but no 220 MHz), with modes including SSB, CW, AM, FM, and digital C4FM. Its power output is 6W from a 5670mAh battery, which can be boosted to 10W when using an external power supply—much the same way as with the IC-705. One standout feature is its dual independent receivers, allowing simultaneous operation (full duplex) on different bands, such as HF and VHF, or even dual VHF operation. The front panel includes a 4.3-inch color touch screen with a reasonably intuitive interface and advanced digital

signal processing (DSP) as you would expect in any modern radio. It also offers the "1980s car stereo 3D Display" that is seen on the FTDX-101 and FTDX-10. In fact, the FTX-1F really comes across as a smaller version of just that, the FTDX-10, for field use (hence the "F" designation).

## So what are the obvious PROS:

1. The FTX-1F covers a wide range of frequencies and modes, making it suitable for many different types of communication, from local contacts on FM to long-distance DXing on SSB.
2. Duplex dual-band operation... the ability to monitor on two bands simultaneously is potentially a big advantage for some users—working satellites with different—band up-and-downlinks and cross-band duplex.
3. The large, bright touch screen is user-friendly, with clear, intuitive controls, making it accessible even for newer operators. Unlike Yaesu of old, the menu structure is much improved and is very similar to that of the FTDX series of modern Yaesu rigs.
4. The internal battery provides solid performance, lasting about 9 hours on HF and 8 hours on VHF/UHF (as reported by Yaesu—but actual field performance is yet to be published since the radio isn't shipping yet) - but certainly well-suited for POTA outings, go-kits, QRP Field Day, etc.

## How about some Cons:

1. It's basically a QRP rig, just like the IC-706. It runs 6 watts on the internal battery, and 10 on external power (like a larger battery or AC supply) - very much the same as the IC-705. So operators looking for higher power levels typical of more stationary rigs might be disappointed—QRP operation certainly





## THE NEW HOT THING

Hot and new products to think about



W7UUU

isn't for everyone.

2. The price has not been announced, but some on the internet are speculating a price point somewhat above the IC-705 (\$1,349) - possibly as high as \$1,600. To have a chance to compete against the 705 the price is going to need to at least hit the \$1,300 mark.

3. For operators running digital modes like FT8, additional cooling will apparently be required, which involves attaching optional accessories like a cooling fan—something that might be inconvenient for some users. Of course, this all could change by the time the radio is actually shipping

### So how about comparisons to the IC-705?

The Icom IC-705 has become one of the benchmarks for portable SDR transceivers, and the FTX-1F naturally draws comparisons. Both radios cover the same frequency ranges (HF, VHF, and UHF) and offer a variety of modes, including digital, with the IC-705 supporting D-STAR and the FTX-1F offering Yaesu's C4FM. However, there are some key differences:

1. **Portability:** The Icom IC-705 excels in portability, featuring a *slightly* lower power output (5-10W) but significantly lighter and smaller, making it a go-to for portable and field operations. The Yaesu FTX-1F, while still portable, is slightly bulkier and more power-hungry, which can affect its appeal for backpackers or operators prioritizing ultra-light setups. The IC-705 weighs in at about 2.4 pounds, vs the nearly 5 pounds of the FTX-1F. That could matter to some users and especially for some SOTA applications.

2. **Battery life:** The IC-705 offers similar battery life but also includes a built-in GPS and other features that make it especially useful for mobile operations. In contrast, the FTX-1F prioritizes dual-band duplex operation and a slightly higher power output, which might appeal more to those operating in fixed or semi-fixed stations.

3. **User experience:** Both radios offer excellent touch-screen interfaces, but the FTX-1F's dual-receiver duplex capability gives it an edge for those wanting this—but that's not a big subset of hams. The IC-705, however, is praised for its SDR architecture, and the Icom menu structure that many folks prefer over the way Yaesu does it. However, I really think in actual practice, both rigs are excellent and choice will come down to other factors than the "user interface" aspects. Weight, most notably.

The Yaesu FTX-1F is certainly going to be a solid contender in the portable transceiver market. Like so many other choices in ham radio, much of the decision to buy one or the other will come down to the "Yaesu way" vs. the "Icom way"... in other words, how the menus work, how the controls work, and for those using digital radio, if they are a C4FM (WIRES-X) proponent or a D-Star proponent. If Yaesu plays their cards right and price-matches the IC-705, they stand a strong chance to lure buyers away from the 705 based on the "Yaesu-isms" or the duplex operation of the FTX-1F. Outside of that, I would really consider the FTX-1F to be on par with the 705.

Time will tell how it does in the marketplace once it is actually available.

-Dave W7UUU





# W7OS DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

## Featured Gear from the Museum

Dave W7UUU



**TUCKED ON A SHELF IN THE W7OS MUSEUM** is a piece of gear from the very beginnings of radio. Not just ham radio, but radio period! 1920 saw the beginning of the radio industry, just like the home computers of the late 1970s started the flood of computing tech for homes. By 1921 manufacturers were clamoring to stake their claim in this exploding market. At that time, the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) had formed a solid business relationship with Westinghouse Electric, centered around the development and commercialization of AM radio. RCA largely owned this industry, teaming with General Electric and even The United Fruit Company who held radio patents and was already familiar with radio concepts it had already used for a few years for ship-to-shore communication of its vast array of fruit boats.

Westinghouse was the manufacturing arm for many of these new AM radio products being brought to market, beginning in 1921.

The pieces being featured today are collectively called the Westinghouse RC which was a two-piece combination of the RA broadcast receiver, paired with the DA amplifier to raise the received volume to be sufficient to drive a horn speaker for full-room listening. The coverage range of the receiver was 700 meters to 180 meters, or 428 to 1660 KHz—just slightly broader than the current broadcast band of 535 to 1606 KHz.

New stations were popping up nationally, from coast to coast, at an astounding rate and there was a huge demand for receivers to listen to the “latest things being broadcast” in a manner not too different from the early days of the internet in the mid-1990s.

While this piece would not appear to be “ham gear” it’s

important to remember that in 1921, amateur radio very much included simply receiving only! Trying to see how far away you could hear with your antenna and radio setup (or “hookup” as was the term used in the 1920s). It was not at all unusual for early amateur radio operators to have a BCB listening station next to their ham radio apparatus on the same operating desk. This particular museum piece was donated to the Radio Club of Tacoma by a one of the earliest members of the club.

Founded by industrialist George Westinghouse, by the turn of the 20th century it was already one of the largest providers of electrical and electronic equipment. The founder died in 1914, several years before radio hit the scene.

It took the later leadership of Harry P. Davis, VP and General Manager, to establish Westinghouse as one of the very first market leaders in

the radio revolution. In fact, it was Davis who

pushed the company into radio broadcasting by 1920, overseeing the establishment of KDKA, the first commercial AM radio station, which took to the airwaves in 1920. This put Westinghouse in the driver’s seat to not only sell radios, but to sell top-end radios with performance (at that time) that competitors couldn’t touch. The “Westinghouse Twins” in the W7OS museum truly represented the state of the art at the time of their introduction in 1921 and despite their staggeringly-high selling price, they took off in the market sold by the millions to the eager masses wanting to experience “full room AM radio sound in their living rooms”.

The design by today’s standards is really very simple.

Referring to the photo, the lefthand unit is the RA unit that is



Westinghouse RA-DA Twins  
Photo: Dave W7UUU



# W7OS DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

## Featured Gear from the Museum

Dave W7UUU



### RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA

#### SHORT WAVE REGENERATIVE RECEIVER, MODEL RC

Combining RA Tuner and DA Amplifier  
in One Cabinet

For Broadcast-  
ed news, music,  
concerts

A Highly  
Sensitive  
Long Distance  
Receiver



THE radio broadcast enthusiast or amateur who desires a modern, compact, portable and efficient receiver for general reception, will find these requisites in Model RC short wave regenerative receiver. It is an ideal instrument for use with loud speaking devices and has already found great favor throughout the entire country.

#### Long Distance Features

This receiver comprises a combination of the type RA short wave regenerative tuner, and type DA detector and two stage audio frequency amplifier described on preceding pages. Distant radio telephone, amateur and ship stations may be received on any wavelength within the range of 180 to 700 meters. The addition of Load Coil, model CB, allows the reception of signals on wavelengths between 1800 and 2800 meters where an average amateur outdoor antenna is used. This makes the set suitable for the reception of Arlington (Radio, Va.) time signals, which are broadcasted on 2500 meters at noon and 10 p. m., Standard 75° Meridian time, each day over distances of several hundred miles.

Broadcasting may be received on either de-

tor alone or with one or two stages of amplification by simply changing the head telephone plug connection. Where a Vocarola loud speaker is employed, the entire family may enjoy radio concerts without the use of telephone receivers. The set is metal-lically shielded so as to prevent undesired noises caused by capacity effects between the set itself and the operator's body.

The specifications for this receiver are identical to those of the RA tuner and DA detector and amplifier, with the exception that both units have been incorporated in one cabinet. All binding posts are mounted on the rear of the panel, permitting connections to be readily made. A wiring diagram and complete instructions accompany each instrument.

**Dimensions**—Height, 9½ in.; depth, 8½ in.; width, 18 in.

**Weights**—Net, 15 lbs.; shipping, 22 lbs.

#### Radiotrons Give Best Results

It is recommended that the Radio Corporation's detector and amplifying tubes Radiotron UV-200 and Radiotron UV-201 be used with these instruments.

#### OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR MODEL RC RECEIVER

Numbers Correspond with Diagram

- No. 1. First, refer to accompanying sketch, then erect antenna and place protective device in position as described on page 56.
- No. 2. Connect a wire leading to this post from terminal R of protective device.
- No. 3. Connect a wire between this post and terminal G of protective device.
- No. 4. Turn rheostats as far as they will go toward tail of arrow.

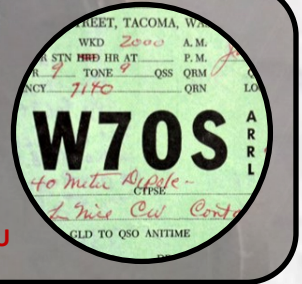
the tuner. It contains a variometer for tuning in the stations, and the tickler for the variometer for controlling regenerative feedback. The unit on the right is the DA unit and contains the detector and amplifier, using a UV-200 for the detector, and a pair of UV-201 tubes for the first and second audio amplifiers. When all together it is called an RC Receiver. A very rare additional device called an RT was available to increase the selectivity of the receiver to help pull in more distant stations by nulling out stronger local stations. But in my research for this project, it's a pretty rare bird and not that many were sold compared to the RC twins. There's a small wooden door on the top of the RA unit to allow access to the tubes. Three batteries provided power: the A-battery was 6 volts for the tube filaments, the B-battery which was 90 volts (consisting of 4 22.5v batteries in series), and a C-battery which provided the grid bias for the audio



# W70S DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

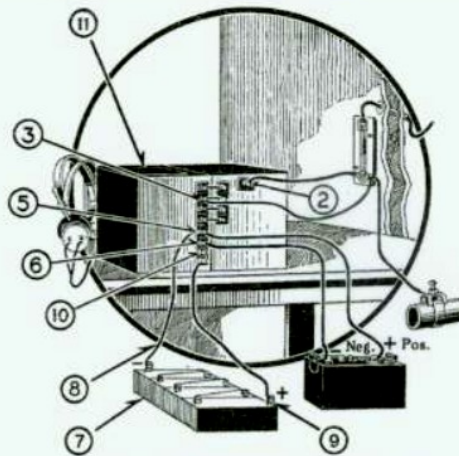
## Featured Gear from the Museum

Dave W7UUU



### RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA

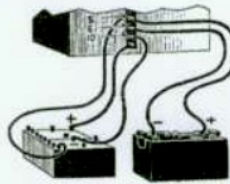
- No. 5. Connect positive ( + ) terminal of 6 volt storage battery to terminal ( +A—B. BAT.) of receiver.
- No. 6. Connect negative ( — ) terminal of storage battery to terminal marked (—A. BAT.) of receiver.
- No. 7. Connect one positive and one negative terminal of 22.5 volt dry batteries together.
- No. 8. Connect remaining negative terminal of 22.5 volt batteries to terminal ( +A.—B. BAT.) of receiver.
- No. 9. Connect remaining positive terminal of 22.5 volt battery to terminal marked +AMPL. B. BAT.
- No. 10. Connect terminals marked +DET. B. BAT. and terminal +AMPL. B. BAT., together.
- No. 11. Open door in top and insert three radiotron type UV-201 amplifier tubes in sockets. Catch pin inside of tube base with slot in socket, press down and turn into place.
- No. 12. Insert telephone plug in right hand jack and turn both rheostats (4) toward point of arrow until all tubes burn brightly.
- No. 13. Rotate tickler midway between stops.
- No. 14. Rotate tuner knob slowly over scale, listening for sounds in telephone receivers. Receiver is very sensitive to adjustments of the tuner knob and care should be taken not to move it too rapidly or the signal will be lost. Signals on short wave lengths will be received near the lower end of the scale, whereas the wave length increases toward the upper end of the scale. Broadcasting stations are generally tuned in between 20 and 40. When the signal is heard its intensity may be increased by



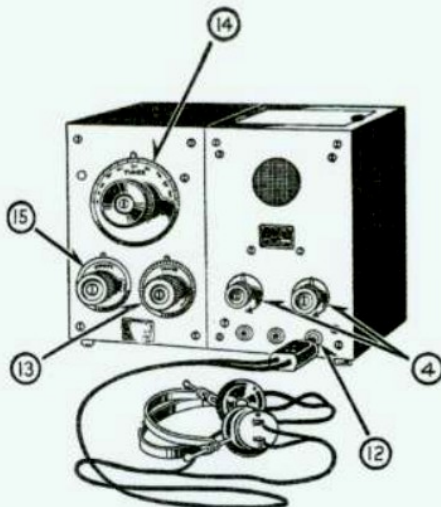
Text numbers correspond to above diagram.

manipulating "Vernier" in one direction or the other and by adjusting the tickler (13). Further adjustment may be made by manipulation of the filament rheostats (4).

For those who desire to operate with a soft type detector tube, radiotron UV-200 may be inserted in the socket at the rear of the cabinet instead of the UV-201, but it is then necessary to alter the connections as illustrated below.



Method of connecting Filament and Plate Batteries.



Text numbers correspond with above diagram.

**Complete Short Wave Regenerative Receiver with Detector and Two-Stage Amplifier, 170-700 meters, Model RC, with Load Coil, one Radiotron Detector Tube, two Radiotron Amplifier Tubes, one six-volt Storage Battery Model 6HR-9, Telephone Plug, two "B" Plate Batteries, Vocabola Loud Speaker, Rectigon Battery Charger (5 ampere size), Receiving Antenna Equipment, and Full Instructions . . . . . \$261.75**

**Short Wave Regenerative Tuner, Model RC, less all above Equipment, \$132.50**

**Dimensions—9½ in. by 8½ in. by 8⅛ in.  
Weights—Net, 15 lbs.; shipping, 22 lbs.; with above Equipment, 150 lbs.**

NOTE: For prices of other Complete Receiver Combinations, see page 35

amplifier circuit.

While pretty simple by today's standards, this was considered state of the art in 1921 and this was a very high-performance receiver of that era.

But such quality came at a pretty steep price. Westinghouse sold the "Complete Short Wave Regenerative Receiver" package, which included the two Twins boxes (RA and DA collectively called the RC), the detector tube, the two amplifier tubes, the "B" batteries, a "Vocabola" metal "ear horn" horn loudspeaker, and a full antenna kit—all for the price of \$261.75 which in 2024 dollars would be \$3,682... for what amounts to an AM radio to cover the current AM broadcast band! But compare that to early computer prices such as the original IBM PC, and it's not hard to see how such technological leaps can inspire the early adopters to pay premium prices just to ultimately bring the market to all.

-Dave W7UUU



# ANTENNA TIME

## Antenna Analyzers: MFJ vs. Rigexpert

Dave W7UUU

### ANTENNA ANALYZERS: OLD AND NEW

Antenna analyzers are indispensable tools for amateur radio operators, helping to fine-tune antennas by measuring SWR, impedance, and more. At their absolute basic, they are essentially a tunable frequency generator producing a *very* small RF output (QRPP or “super low power”) that transmits into the antenna under test, then a bridge circuit that com-

pares the impedance of the antenna under test with a known impedance. It can then determine the SWR at any given band and frequency. These devices come in analog as well as digital versions.

Two hugely popular models, one of each type, are the analog MFJ-259 (and its variants A, B, C, etc.) and

basic SWR and impedance measurements with an analog display with digital frequency readout on most models that is easy to read. This model and its variants has been a go-to for many hams performing basic antenna troubleshooting in the field or at home for decades. Over my many years as a ham, I probably owned 6 different variants of the MFJ. Its relatively low cost, ease of use, and lack of any frills made it really popular, especially for operators who just want to tune an antenna and don't need fancy features like sweeping bands, viewing and storing graphs, etc. Despite its basic nature, the MFJ-259 is a versatile tool that still holds its place in a lot of shacks. They still do a decent job and can be had for pretty cheap on QRZ, eHam, eBay, etc.



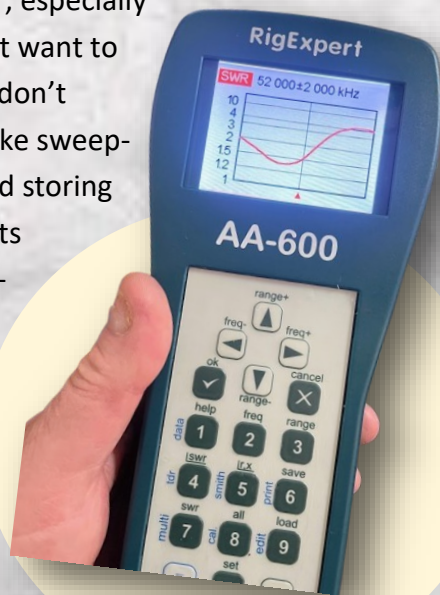
MFJ-259B

Photo: W7UUU

the RigExpert AA-600 (and its variants). Of course, there are many others out there that have been sold over the years—but for the sake of this article, I'll just cover the MFJ and the RigExpert for simplicity.

### MFJ-259 series—the Old Guard

The MFJ-259 is a hugely popular handheld mostly-analog analyzer that has earned its reputation for simplicity and reliability. Introduced decades ago, this series covers HF and VHF frequencies, offering



Rig Expert AA-600

Photo: W7UUU

**Unfortunately**, as most hams are aware, MFJ Enterprises recently closed its doors, making the MFJ-259 increasingly difficult to find new (a few HRO and DXE locations may still have stock on hand). Newer MFJ-259C models, when available, sell for around \$350. But it's just a matter of months before all the new stock is gone and buying used will be the only option.



# ANTENNA TIME

## Antenna Analyzers: MFJ vs. Rigexpert

Dave W7UUU



### RigExpert—The New and Cool

On the other end of the spectrum is the [RigExpert AA-600](#) (and its variants—the number indicates maximum frequency in MHz). These devices are made in war-torn Kyiv, Ukraine—but despite the war, they continue to be available and are in stock from many vendors in the USA (HRO, DXE, etc.). Obviously this is something that could change at any moment! They have a service center in New York, and provide superb “after the sale” service (I have personal experience!).

For the purpose of this article, I am featuring the AA-600—an advanced model which covers frequencies up to 600 MHz and offers a *vastly* wider range of measurements than the MFJ-259. I own one of these and wouldn’t want to be without it! In addition to SWR and impedance, the AA-600 includes more detailed features like Smith charts (a graphical way to represent complex impedance values and relationships) and time-domain reflectometry (TDR), which is used to locate faults in coaxial cables. Its ability to plot complex impedance measurements in a graphical form makes it ideal for more techy operators who regularly experiment with antennas or deal with more complex antenna systems. The AA-600’s graphical display makes it easier to interpret results,

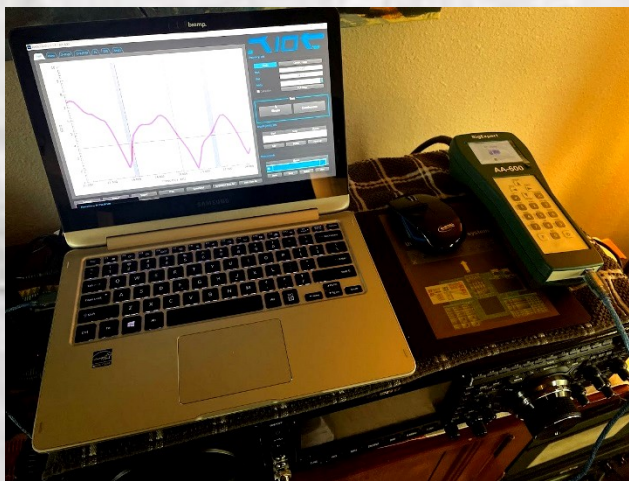
and its ability to connect to a computer for advanced analysis using the RigExpert [Antscope software](#) sets it apart from all the older analog analyzers.

Retailing at around \$600, the AA-600 costs more than the MFJ-259 series, but many users (myself included) feel the additional features and ease of use truly justify the higher price. Whether you’re tuning antennas, testing coax, or analyzing transmission line parameters, the AA-600 provides more data,

displayed clearly on a large, LCD screen. It is especially valuable for those who need highly accurate and comprehensive readings on a variety of antenna types and coaxial cable systems. And using it with the Antscope software is a real eye-opener. You can sweep the entire 1-600 MHz spectrum, or a range of

bands (such as for setting up a fan dipole for 20 and 40 meters), or just a single small slice of one band. Of course, you can do these things in the AA-600 itself. But the LCD resolution is fairly low, and the menu interface is a little cumbersome for finer adjustments. Using a laptop with Antscope is a great way to go and in fact, is really the only way I use my AA-600 most of the time.

One of my favorite features is the ability to sweep each of my antennas, and store a detailed chart of their performance. This way I can see if anything is





# ANTENNA TIME

## Antenna Analyzers: MFJ vs. Rigexpert

Dave W7UUU



changing over time by comparing current readings with stored graphs from some point in the past.

### So Pros & Cons of Analog vs. Digital Analyzers:

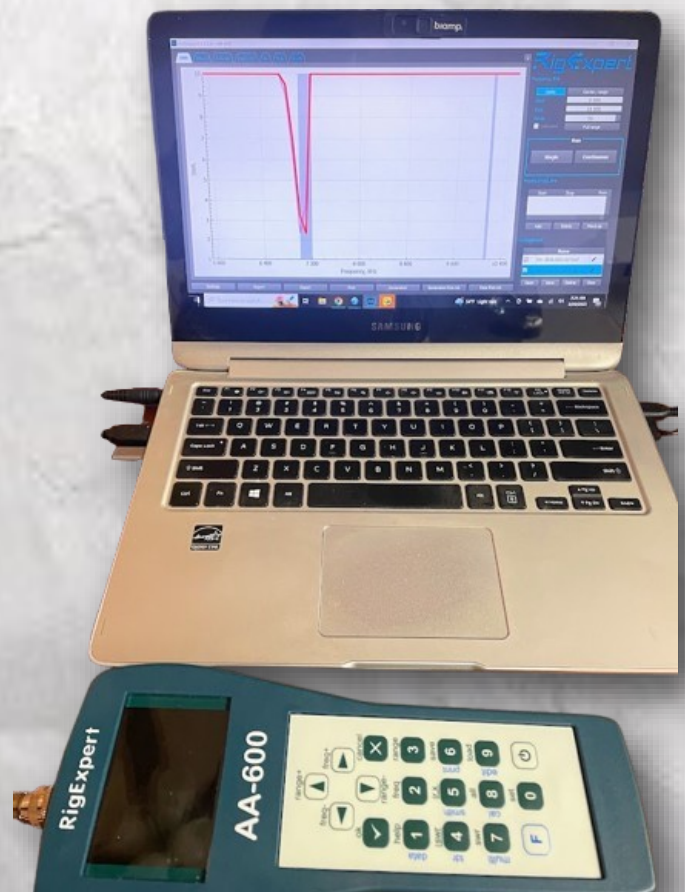
When comparing these two models, both of which I have owned, the key difference obviously lies in their technology. The MFJ-259's analog display is functional but limited, providing basic SWR measurements with minimal data beyond that. But it's fine for doing basic antenna setup. "Down and dirty" for sweeping your dipole (using the frequency knob) visually looking for the SWR meter to "dip" at the resonance point. It works great for this. For beginners, or hams on a budget or those who *only* need to check SWR and impedance, the MFJ-259 series is still a great option—although buying used may be your only choice these days.

However, the lack of advanced features like a computer interface or TDR functions makes it feel outdated in comparison to newer models. In this sense, the MFJ-259 has become somewhat obsolete, particularly with the closure of MFJ Enterprises. Users who only need basic SWR measurements or prefer a device without the complexity of digital features still find it useful, but it's hard to deny its limitations. In fact, I sold off my last two MFJ-259 analyzers several years ago and haven't looked back.

The RigExpert AA-600 (and its variants, offering different frequency ranges, and priced accordingly) is really the state of the art in my opinion for anyone really serious about building, adjusting, and analyzing antennas. Yes, it's more costly no question, but it's a cost I chose to factor into my shack design.

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, there certainly are other options for both analog as well as digital SWR analyzers. I simply chose to feature what are arguably the most popular brands and models of such devices—and ones that I've owned and used myself for years.

-Dave W7UUU



Rig Expert AA-600 in PC mode with a laptop, demonstrating the huge value of such precision in setting up a transmitting loop antenna and how narrow the tuning of such antennas can be. Note the dip in the red line falling squarely in the middle of the gray strip which denotes the 20 meter band. Photo: Dave W7UUU





### Top Ten HF Transceivers of All Time

This non-scientific list is compiled from many sources, ranked by sales volume... what are the top ten HF transceivers all time, by unit sales? I've included radios from the past that are 100% tubes, radios from the "Hybrid Years" where the rigs were mostly solid state but also had tubes for driver and final amplifiers, and 100% solid state transceivers. Also included right up to present day are SDR radios such as the ubiquitous Icom IC-7300 ■ *-editor*

1	<b>Icom IC-7300</b>
2	<b>Yaesu FT-101 (including variants)</b>
3	<b>Kenwood TS-820/TS-830</b>
4	<b>Heathkit HW-101</b>
5	<b>Icom IC-756</b>
6	<b>Yaesu FT-757GX</b>
7	<b>Ten-Tec Omni (including variants)</b>
8	<b>Drake TR-7 (including variants)</b>
9	<b>Kenwood TS-590SG</b>
10	<b>Yaesu FT-DX1200</b>

### Upcoming Ham Fests in the Area

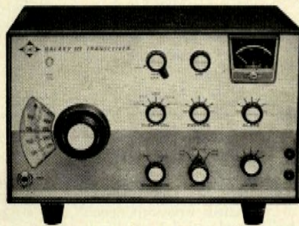
Sorry—no November ham fests to report... 'Tis the time of year when they just stop happening!

### Ad from 73 Magazine, 60 Years Ago This Month

BRYAN EDWARDS, JR.

**W5KFT** "The Kid from Texas"

RECOMMENDS



**GALAXY III** \$349.95  
80-40-20 METERS (Illustrated)

**GALAXY V** \$469.95  
80-20-15-10 METERS

IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE GALAXY III AND GALAXY V . . .

- ✓ 300 Watts SSB/CW Input conservatively rated.
- ✓ "Hottest Receiver" because of advanced design.
- ✓ Best Filter Available; 2.1 kc. bandwidth with exceptional 1.8: 1 shape factor. The only 6-crystal filter used in amateur equipment.
- ✓ Most Compact 300-Watt Transceivers; 6" high, 10 1/4" wide, 11 1/4" deep; weight —only 13 lbs.

**ORDER TODAY!**

★ LUBBOCK, TEXAS  
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WHO GIVES TEXAS-SIZE TRADES  
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1320 19TH ST. / LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79401

**PERSONAL INDIVIDUAL SERVICE GUARANTEED WE WANT YOUR BUSINESS!**

Edwards Electronics Yes, Kid From Texas  
1320 19th Street I'm interested!  
Lubbock, Texas 79401

☐ Enter order for equipment listed on attached sheet.  
☐ Send Galaxy III and V literature.  
☐ Send quotations for trade in allowances on equipment listed on attached sheet.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

NOVEMBER 1964 57





**HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE TERM “QSL BUREAU”** and wondered what that meant? A ham radio QSL bureau is a service that helps hams around the world to exchange QSL cards for confirmation of their QSOs. And of course, we’re just talking about DX to US & US to DX here... most QSL bureaus are not for “domestic confirmations”. The idea of a QSL bureau is to help offset the high cost of postage to send “one card at a time”, and rather allow hams to send larger quantities to “the bureau” for bulk distribution at a much lower cost. The QSL bureau then acts like a central hub where cards are collected, sorted, and ultimately distributed to the hams for which they are directed. It’s a really economical way to send and receive paper QSL cards across the globe for very reasonable prices. Granted, most confirmations these days are electronic via LoTW, QRZ, etc. But many hams still enjoy sending and receiving paper QSL cards that come in the mail. I’m one of them!

### So how does it work?

There are many bureau systems around the world, and even around the U.S. itself. For this article I’m just going to focus on the largest QSL bureau in the U.S., that provided by the ARRL. Since 1933 the League has offered this great service to its members here in the states, both for sending and receiving paper QSL cards around the world.

There are actually *two* bureaus—one for incoming cards, sent by the hams in other countries to hams in the U.S., and another for U.S. hams to bulk-send QSL cards out to those distant DX lands.

**The Incoming QSL Bureau:** First let’s talk about the one that most new hams are interested in early on: the *Incoming* Bureau. When hams who live abroad create a QSL card to send “via Bureau”, they send it to their own outgoing bureau in their own country that has a reciprocal agreement with the ARRL. Once that bureau receives their card, it’s added to a large number of such cards from many hams in that country that are then combined into a single shipment to the ARRL in the U.S.. They are then sorted by call district, and sent to the local “Incoming Bureau” in each of the U.S. call districts. Regardless of where you live—even if you live in Florida but have a “7” call sign, your incoming cards will be delivered to the 7th District Bureau sorting office.

You, as a recipient, must take the active roll to contact your local QSL bureau (click [HERE](#) to see the list of all ARRL Incoming QSL Service Bureaus). You do NOT have to be an ARRL member to use the Incoming QSL Service.

While it’s advertised on the ARRL site as being a free service, that’s not entirely true. Each recipient needs to work with their district’s bureau to either have SASE envelopes (like the one in the photo to the left) on file, or to have pre-payment of postage on file with them. Then, as cards come into the ARRL main bureau, the cards are sorted by district and shipped out to each of the local Call Area bureaus. The local bureau then sends you the cards once enough come in to make it worthwhile to send an envelope.

For hams who work a lot of DX, a quarterly delivery

(Continued on page 90)



Photos: W7UUU





might be advised. You can arrange this with your local call area bureau (most offer a time option for sending). But for more casual DXers, it's more common to just wait until there's enough cards to justify at least one ounce of postage to be used (the minimum that envelope postage allows). Typically, that would be 7-10 cards, depending on the thickness of the card stock and any stickers that may be added.

**The Outgoing QSL Bureau:** To use the ARRL Outgoing Bureau, you do need to be an ARRL member in good standing. This applies to U.S. hams, foreign hams who are members of the League, and QSL managers. It's an extremely economical way to return QSL cards for those you have received, or to request paper cards from DX stations you desire to receive a card from. It's pretty simple to do.

The Fee Structure ([LINK](#)) is very reasonable, and vastly cheaper than sending cards directly to DX stations around the world. The current fees (as of this writing) are \$2.00 for 10 or fewer cards sent in a single envelope, \$3.00 for 11-20 cards in one envelope, or 75 cents per ounce for packages with 21 or more cards. So for example, 1.5 pounds of cards, 24 ounces, or about 225 QSL cards would cost only \$18!! Considering it can be \$3 just to send a *single card* via US Mail directly, that's an amazing value.

It's important that you weigh your cards accurately (if you don't have a scale, just go to any post office and ask them to be weighed on an accurate scale). There's a form to fill out (referenced in the link above)... but once all that is done, you just include a check or money order (no electronic payment at this time) and ship them off to the ARRL. Be sure to follow the more detailed instructions linked above, but that's about all there is to it.

**The Pros and the Cons:** Let's do "cons" first. The Bureau system is definitely *not* for everyone! If anything even approaching "instant gratification" is what you're after, the QSL bureau is not for you. It's an *extremely* slow process at best, and glacial at worst.

Under the *best* of circumstances, you're looking at 6 months or so *minimum* to get a card back from a station to which you sent one. It's very important that you check their QRZ page (or website or blog if you know where those are) before sending a card, just to make sure they even use the Bureau system.

On [QRZ.com](#), when you enter a call sign to search, if they have registered with the site you will see their bio page. There's a field called "QSL:" right at the top. If they don't list "BURO" or "Bureau" as a QSL option, it's *highly* unlikely they will ever respond to your QSL card request should you send them one. If it doesn't *specifically* say that, it's probably a waste of time to bother. More and more hams are simply moving away from "QSL Cards" in lieu of LoTW, QRZ, ClubLog, etc.

And under the worst of circumstances, it might take *years* to receive a card back from a bureau request. My best example of this was a station in South Korea whom I worked in 1996 and sent a Bureau card to them—I got the return card in 2015—*nineteen years* later! I had long ago no longer needed a South Korea confirmation.

**So how about the pros?:** Think of the Bureau as a super economical way to send lots of cards around the world, and receive lots of cards from DX. If you are only remotely active as a DXer, it's very likely your quarterly or semi-annual incoming envelopes will have at least a nice assortment beautiful cards from around the DX world. Even using digital modes like FT8, there are many hams

(Continued on page 91)



# How QSL Bureaus Work

## FEATURE Article!

who simply love paper QSL cards and despite that mode being on their computer, they still want a paper card to show for it, and will send you one in hopes you will do the same.

I just recently received a 1-inch thick manilla envelope from the 7th District QSL Bureau (run by the [Willamette Valley DX Club](#)) that contained a whopping 87 QSL cards from around the world. I get such an envelope about every 6 or 8 months.

**In this latest envelope**, I received 87 cards in total, some dating back several years. Of those, 64 were from Japan, and the remaining 23 from Europe and Pacific stations. That's a ratio of roughly 8:3 of Japan-to-elsewhere QSL cards. Please refer back to the first page of this article—the photos show the manila envelope, with the JA cards to the right, the rest to the left. Those of us within easy range of Japan have long known that JA stations are arguably the most prolific to QSL, and the bureau is a very popular means to do that.

Japanese hams send some pretty amazingly beautiful cards—and also some of the most austere! There are long traditions to both approaches, but the photos to the right illustrate examples of this.

**The Hard Part—"don't be that guy":** Given that the "incoming QSL service" is free to anyone who simply pays the local bureau to keep postage on hand, while the "outgoing QSL service" you must be an ARRL member *and* must pay to use it, the temptation may be great to take advantage of the system. By that I mean, sign up

with your local incoming bureau, putting a few bucks on file so when cards come in they send them to you. But then choose not to be an ARRL member or even if you are a member, choose not to send outgoing cards because you must pay for that service.

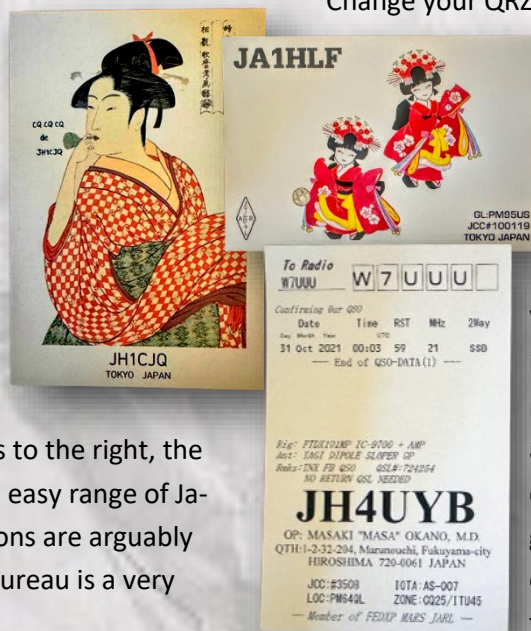
**I personally ask of you:** please don't do that! If you are not willing to reciprocate, and send cards back to those who have taken the time to send theirs to you from around the world, then simply opt out of the system. Change your QRZ page to state "No BURO" or "No Bu-

reau" and don't put an envelope on file with your incoming ARRL bureau folks. Please don't just sit back and enjoy the cards that come in without taking steps and paying the minimal fees to reciprocate.

What I like to do is just set aside a day in the shack (often a pouring down rainy day, when I have no other plans!) and grab a big stack of cards, and my envelope of incoming Bureau cards, and go to town carefully filling them out. I often put a movie on the TV to play in the background, have a cup of tea or a

glass of vino if later in the day, and give back to all of those hams across the globe that took the time to send me their card. It's an age-old practice that to me spans the ages, to the Old Ones, and back to a time when ham radio was pure magic in being able to have a contact with a ham who may be ten thousand miles away from you. The era of paper QSL cards may be in deep decline, but it's far from over! I hope anyone reading this now knows a little more about how the Bureau works, and can take advantage one day soon.

-Dave W7UUU





# HAM TECH 101

## Useful tech info for newer hams and old

By Jim AF5NP

### YOU MAY HAVE HEARD OR READ THE TERM “APRS”

This four letter acronym isn't self-explanatory but is popular and important enough that we should cover the basics of what it is and how it's used.

Do you *need* APRS? Unlikely. Do you want it? Maybe. Planning to buy a new VHF/UHF radio and wonder if this is a feature worth paying for? *Read on.*

APRS is a big topic with way more detail than we can present here so we'll give you a general idea of what it involves along with some research links to answer these questions yourself.

For starters, APRS stands for  
**Automatic Packet Reporting System.**

### T8D02-2018: What does the term “APRS” mean? **Automatic Packet Reporting System**

*Some publications mistakenly call it Automatic Position Reporting System.  
But that is not correct!*

Refer to our [packet topic](#) for a background on what packet radio is all about. What makes APRS a specialized form of packet is what info is transmitted.

APRS supports four [data types](#), including Position/ Objects, Status, Messages and Queries. The position packets contain latitude and longitude, a symbol (Object) to be displayed on a map, plus optional fields for altitude, course, speed, radiated power, antenna height above average terrain, antenna gain, and voice operating frequency.

While APRS can send packets over greater distances on HF bands, it is more commonly used with VHF FM (2m) radios to share data of interest in the local area such as GPS coordinates, weather, alerts, announcements, and such.

APRS info and messages can be directly between hams

but more commonly, packet data is collected by local repeaters (gateways) and sent to the APRS Internet System ([APRS-IS](#)) for retrieval anywhere by anybody with a web browser. Meaning your unlicensed spouse can see where you are located (technically, your transceiver) at any given time. It is not a one-way system; APRS both transmits and receives packet data.

Also unlike normal packet radio, APRS blindly sends out data addressed to no one in particular (unconnected). Two things to know about this system: 1) no error correction (clean, strong signals are required), 2) someone or something must be monitoring for it to be useful (another APRS ham or internet gateway).

In addition to several good references below, an excellent resource worth reading right now: [Intro to APRS](#) (PDF file link), a presentation prepared by John Gorkos **AB000** of the [Joplin Missouri Amateur Radio Club](#). It discusses what the system is *not*, the significant info you can get through it, what you can do with it (note two separate sections for this), and suggests next steps for getting involved with APRS.

Given all the possibilities above, the primary use of APRS in ham radio is to have a transmitter location reported to a central database periodically so that others can see where a mobile or portable ham is located.

### T8D05-2018: Which of the following is an application of APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System)? **Providing real-time tactical digital communications in conjunction with a map showing the locations of stations**

This makes APRS particularly useful for public service events and emergency communication (EmComm) situations where managers can easily track mobile resources who have messaging capabilities.

(Continued on page 93)



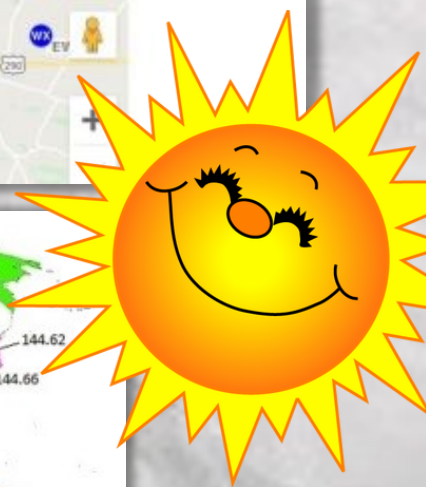
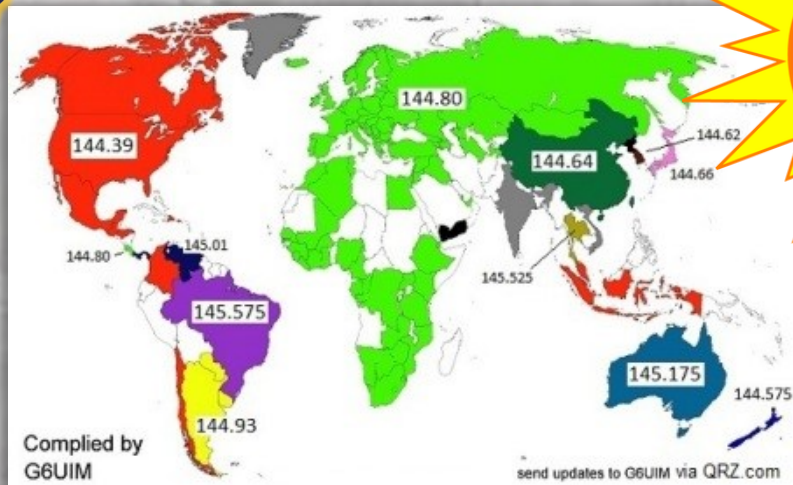
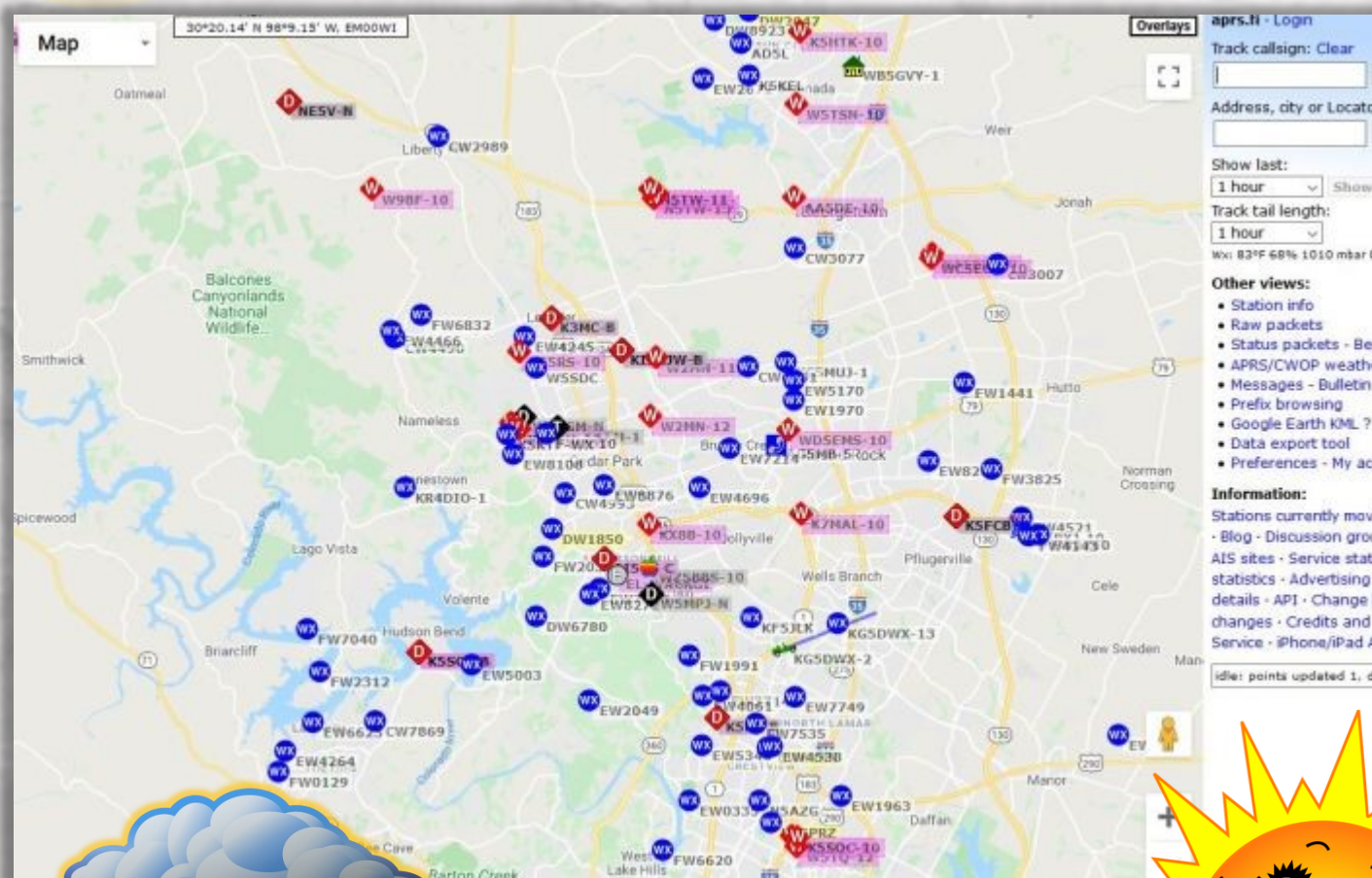
# HAM TECH 101

## Useful tech info for newer hams and old

By Jim AF5NP

There are numerous web services for viewing APRS maps and data but the main one (and simplest) is [aprs.fi](http://aprs.fi). Click this link and you will be taken to a local map showing locations of ham APRS transmitters in your own area.

Let's look at this example:



(Continued on page 94)



# HAM TECH 101

## Useful tech info for newer hams and old

By Jim AF5NP

In North America all APRS data is transmitted on 144.390 MHz. See the global map to find out what your frequency might be where you are in the world.

Just tune your VHF radio to your global frequency to hear the packet squeal, if you are wondering what it sounds like.

APRS requires not only a 2m FM transceiver but also a computer with display and TNC radio-computer interface, plus (normally) a GPS receiver. Radios with APRS features built in cost more than ordinary mobile or handheld transceivers, mainly because they have a 2nd independent channel (one for APRS), and a GPS receiver, packet functionality, and usually a larger display. However, APRS can be added to an old or cheap radio using external modules. It's not so clean or simple to have attachments but there are retrofit options. Three add-on solutions are linked in the references below; a web search will find even more.

APRS is also a cool way to track an inanimate object such as a weather balloon. Some hams do this for fun and for experimentation by putting an APRS transmitter on a balloon to see where it goes (and where to retrieve it after landing).

If APRS interests you at all, click on the references below. There is a lot more to APRS than what we shared here. Be advised that not all agree with each other on all points so you'll have to sort through it yourself.

### Some useful references:

[APRS](#)— Official site of APRS creator Bob Bruninga, [WB4APR](#)

[APRS](#)— G4ILO excellent write-up

[APRS.fi](#) Official APRS User's Guide

73—Jim [AF5NP](#)

## It's Zed, not Zee!

By Jim [AF5NP](#)

**"WHEN FORMALLY IDENTIFYING** yourself or another radio station with the letter Z in the call sign we use **Zulu** for proper ITU phonetics.

But we don't always use phonetics for identification. Once the call signs have been logged and acknowledged properly, we typically identify with call signs spoken normally (no phonetics).

So here is the wrinkle... If there is a letter Z in any call sign, we should not pronounce "zee" when using non-phonetic identification. Z is easily confused with C and to a lesser extent, G and P and T and V, especially if there is interference or noise.

To avoid this, simply say "zed" instead of "zee" when not using phonetics. Zed is how the originators of the English language pronounce that last letter of the alphabet anyway, so let's give the UK a show of support.

Using Zed solves the confusion and it's widely known and understood. You will hear experienced hams say Zed all the time when they're not using phonetics. Just remember to say Zulu when phonetics are needed.

It's Zed, not Zee. Get into the habit!"

73—Jim [AF5NP](#)





# GEAR

Guest Columnist: Dave Jensen W7DGJ



## BUILD IT—DON'T BUY IT!

I recently had a lot of fun interviewing a couple of ham radio operators who were a part of an Open-Source development team, a group out of Russia and Ukraine (yes, that's true!) working on both hardware and software for a new transceiver. The passion this group has is contagious, and the ideas they shared with me made me think about how cool it would be to see this radio in action.

Open-Source is an interesting -- but risky -- way to develop a project. The person with the idea gets on the Internet, shares his or her ideas, finds a team of interested people who'd like a shot at helping to pull it off, and then manages the process as this group pulls all the pieces together. In the case of the WOLF 2 transceiver, there was very sophisticated hardware design along with work from the affiliated programmers on a unique software package.

The reason it is WOLF 2 is that the original WOLF transceiver was taken by several Chinese businessmen and cloned, using substituted and

cheap parts. According to the team, this trashed the radio and they've been dealing with the fall-out since then. "It is very easy to run amateur projects in the open-source ecosystem," Dmitry Panin, **UA3REO**, the originator of the WOLF concept, told me. "It's great when real professionals with backgrounds in software and hardware de-

velopment join the project as they did on this one. And then, at the same time, real radio amateurs who are loyal to the spirit of ham radio join the

team and assemble their transceivers.

That's when it gets exciting—when the radio is actually *built by hams*. This is just another step that brings new ideas to the table and improves the device."

But despite his love for the open-source community, Dmitry had a warning for me as well: "As soon as an open-source radio gains great interest from a wider public, and especially when innovative developments appear as a part of that project, there is a risk of commercialization of the design by unscrupulous people," Dmitry said. As I heard that, I recognized the



WOLF-2 SDR Transceiver



# GEAR

Guest Columnist: Dave Jensen W7DGJ



sting in Dmitry's voice as those clones from China hit close to home.

Technically, the fact that this was in the open-source world means that the businessmen only did something “distasteful,” and not illegal. But it sure stunk to high heaven to see a radio with so much potential end up with a myriad of defects and broken components.

“For example, those Chinese clones have no synchronous DC-DC converters. Instead, a cheap converter board costing less than \$2 was substituted, and as a result a part of the spectrum is filled with interference and noise. Also, there is no thermal stabilization of the frequency in the clone, which critically affects the operation of the transceiver in the VHF bands.

I noted that the output transistors and transformers were replaced with transistors that are completely unsuitable. The one we examined had no output power at all on VHF, and the power on HF was much lower than it should have been. Along with that, everything was accompanied by intermodulation of the signal. It could never be FCC certified as it is simply forbidden to go on the air with such a device!”.

The original article about this WOLF radio lies on QRZ.com, and there's a link there to the page which offers you (for free) all the schematics and even Gerber board files so that you can

build your own WOLF.

Check out some of these ideas that were put into the design for this radio: You can track passing satellites, adjusting the frequency by Doppler shift. The device features two CAT ports so that without additional software it is possible to control the skimmer and a contest log. The transceiver shows ionospheric passage in the desired QTH location. It features built-in FT8, with no external computer required, and you



WOLF Team Developer, Dmitry **UA3REO**



# GEAR

Guest Columnist: Dave Jensen



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Dave Jensen, W7DGJ**, was first licensed in 1966. Originally **WN7VDY** (and later **WA7VDY**), Dave operated on 40 and 80 meter CW with a shack that consisted primarily of Heathkit equipment. Dave loved

radio so much he went off to college to study broadcasting and came out with a BS in Communications from Ohio University (Athens, OH). He worked his way through a number of audio electronics companies after graduation, including the professional microphone business for Audio-Technica. He was later licensed as **W7DGJ** out of Scottsdale, Arizona, where he ran an executive recruitment practice (CareerTrax Inc.) for several decades. Jensen has published articles in magazines dealing with science and engineering. His column "Tooling Up" ran for 20 years in the website of the leading science journal, *SCIENCE*, and his column called **Trials and Errors: Ham Life with an Amateur** continues to be a popular read each month on QRZ.com

Read Dave's column at:

<https://www.qrz.com/trials-and-errors>

can simply copy your contacts from the SD card. The device even has SO2R ("Single Operator, Two Radio") functionality. The monitor displays data from a DX cluster directly on its waterfall.

Just remember, whatever you do, don't buy one of these radios pre-built as it will come to you from China, without even the detail of which manufacturer built it and who's backing up your purchase. On the other hand, if you want to have fun building something from scratch, [here's a set of plans](#) for a radio that others are now winning RadioSport contests with!

Amateur radio is so cool!

73 for now, Dave Jensen **W7DGJ**

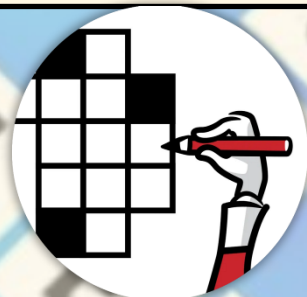


Big thanks to Dmitry Panin **UA3REO** for his contributions



# FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.



## Word Scramble Challenge! Print this page to play!

1. TSARRMNEITT \_\_\_\_\_
2. CEVEIRRE \_\_\_\_\_
3. EETEOANRGNIR \_\_\_\_\_
4. NTIAEIOTORN \_\_\_\_\_
5. RNEOOTMTETPEI \_\_\_\_\_
6. RSOTRESI \_\_\_\_\_
7. ARSAFTLREHLIC \_\_\_\_\_
8. CCOTIRPAA \_\_\_\_\_
9. SLOPSOCOCIEL \_\_\_\_\_
10. RENGILOW \_\_\_\_\_
11. TTERTAOAUN \_\_\_\_\_
12. HNMLMAUADR \_\_\_\_\_
13. ONEECSRAN \_\_\_\_\_
14. CSLOIRLTOA \_\_\_\_\_
15. ETYHONEEDR \_\_\_\_\_

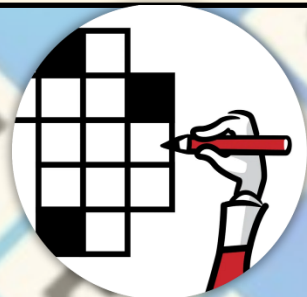
### WORDS TO FIND:

Regeneration   Orientation   Transmitter   Potentiometer  
Resistor   Hallicrafters   Capacitor   Receiver   Oscilloscope   Longwire  
Attenuator   Hammarlund   Resonance   Oscillator   Heterodyne



# FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.



## Answer Key... but don't cheat!

1. TSARRMNEITT \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitter
2. CEVEIRRE \_\_\_\_\_ Receiver
3. EETEOANRGNIR \_\_\_\_\_ Regeneration
4. NTIAEIOTORN \_\_\_\_\_ Orientation
5. RNEOOTMTETPEI \_\_\_\_\_ Potentiometer
6. RSOTRESI \_\_\_\_\_ Resistor
7. ARSAFTLREHLIC \_\_\_\_\_ Hallicrafters
8. CCOTIRPAA \_\_\_\_\_ Capacitor
9. SLOPSOCOCIEL \_\_\_\_\_ Oscilloscope
10. RENGILOW \_\_\_\_\_ Longwire
11. TTERTAOAUN \_\_\_\_\_ Attenuator
12. HNMLMAUADR \_\_\_\_\_ Hammarlund
13. ONEECSRAN \_\_\_\_\_ Resonance
14. CSLOIRLTOA \_\_\_\_\_ Oscillator
15. ETYHONEEDR \_\_\_\_\_ Heterodyne

### WORDS TO FIND:

Regeneration Orientation Transmitter Potentiometer  
 Resistor Hallicrafters Capacitor Receiver Oscilloscope Longwire  
 Attenuator Hammarlund Resonance Oscillator Heterodyne



# CLOSING REMARKS



W7DK

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Logger's Bark is the official publication of the Radio Club of Tacoma and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law. All proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98405, phone: 253-759-2040.

## EMAILING OFFICERS

To contact any club officer, simply send an email to their call sign @W7DK.org

## CONTRIBUTIONS OF ARTICLES & PHOTOS

We WELCOME contributions of articles, guest editorials, blurbs, Hints-and-Kinks, shack photos, QSL cards, memorable contacts, anything of interest to your fellow members. Submit your materials via email to: [loggersbark@gmail.com](mailto:loggersbark@gmail.com) or via US mail to PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411 Nichrome

## RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA REPEATERS

Central Tacoma 2m: 147.28 + PL Tone 103.5  
Central Tacoma 70cm: 440.625 + PL Tone 103.5  
Crawford Mountain: 147.380 + PL Tone 103.5  
North Tacoma: 145.21 - PL Tone 141.3

The Loggers Bark **does not** accept AI / ChatGPT submissions

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- [Full-time students](#), licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$20 per year.
- Fees are applicable for the calendar year: January to December
- Lifetime [membership](#) is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime [memberships](#) are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.
- Visit [www.w7dk.org](http://www.w7dk.org) For the latest and most current information on events and activities

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
**CLICK HERE!**

HAVE A SUBMISSION FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE?

[loggersbark@W7DK.org](mailto:loggersbark@W7DK.org)



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

## Radio Club of Tacoma Board of Directors Meeting Minutes September 4th, 2024

Meeting called to order at \_\_\_\_\_ 1900 \_\_\_\_\_.

### Officers and Directors Present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	Vice President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	Secretary	Gary McAdams WG7X
<input type="checkbox"/>	Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	Board	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board	Paul Matney W7PFU
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	Board	Red Crane field WB7EC

**NOTE:** These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.

Quorum? ☐ Yes ☐

**Motion for approval of Minutes as previously distributed:** WG7X made the motion, Mike W7MKE seconded. Motion carried.

### Silent Key or Illness?

Steve AF7YD is back in hospital, no details at present.

Joe Lester K7ZG RCT# 2235, became a Silent Key on Friday 8/9/24. His daughter Chau called Randy WB4SPB this afternoon (08/11/2024) to tell him that Joe signed off unexpectedly, quickly and peacefully on Friday evening.

Rich Manson N7ANF RCT# 395 has also passed away in the last month. No details have been presented yet.





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

## Secretary's Report (Gary WG7X)

This month has seen a flood of Salmon Run Pledges coming in and unfortunately also a large amount of returned mail due to folks having moved, passed away, or just not updating their information on file with RCT.

## Treasurer's Report (Steve AF7YD)

No report.

## Committee Reports

### Facilities Management (Adam W2NCC)

Work continues updating the landscaping in front of the house. We are finishing cleaning the embankment, removing cut branches and removing the remaining bush. The old ornamental bricks are being disposed of. We will be renting a stump grinder to make the area safe. The Lou room rug was cleaned by Manny AD7MA. Some of the upcoming work, repairing the gutter downspouts. We have handicap parking signs thanks to Dan KD7SV, and these will be installed. Painting and installing anti-climb panels for the tower. Dan is also getting new address numbers for the clubhouse address, which will be installed as soon as they arrive.

### General Meeting (Dave W7UUU)

Dave is continuing to investigate potential presenters... At present, Dave is preparing to play another Living History video from the archives.

### HF Operations(Phil K7PIA)

Phil reports that everything is operational. Mike has the following report:

### HF Committee Meeting 8/26/24 From Mike W7MKE.

Attending:

Al Ferguson N7OMS  
Gary McAdams WG7X  
Bob Purdom AD7LJ  
Sam Mulvey N9MII





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



W7DK

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

David Stilwell AC7KP

Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

## Flex 6400M

Al took the Flex 6400M home to begin contact with Flex for a service ticket to estimate issues and costs for 2025 budget expense.

## IC-7610/Bandpass Filter/etc.

Attempted to connect the bandpass filter to the IC-7610 and was unable to get them to communicate.

Bob has the filter and interface and will take it home to troubleshoot.

We got the IC-7610 / FT8 to work. Discovered that the computer speaker was not engaged so there was no sound to the FT8/WSJT program. Little speaker control in bottom right of screen needs to be on!

Bob supplied earpad covers for the earphones used at the 7610 station. They are temporary covers with 2 per pack in the desk drawer. A Tyvek type ear pad covers. Discussed need for filters for microphones.

Need to get a better boom for IC-7610 station as the amplifier will be tall enough to make it necessary to move the left monitor a bit and a boom that has a higher base off the desk like for the Flex would work much better. Amazon and Guitar Center are both sources of inexpensive booms.

Once the new amplifier comes, we will make new flexible jumpers from RG8X for all the low power connections and dress the cabling.

## Antennas

Explore 17M & 30M dipoles installed on trees on north side of our lots. Will need baluns possible rearrangements of other dipoles? For discussion with club members.

There is no indication of balun failures on 40M and 80M dipoles that we know of so no need to replace those. The update indicates that new baluns are already on order.

## Salmon Run

Would like to set up the CW radio in the museum to make a better environment for both phone and CW operators. But the consensus was that no separate CW position is necessary and in any event there is no space in the museum for that.

## Thursday Night HF

Continue Thursday night's 6-9pm "open house" for HF operations.

Need to advertise availability of this opportunity to members.

Excellent opportunity for training on the radios. Some members have asked for written instructions on radio operation. There are manuals for all radios now and it may be much easier to have direct training for those wishing it. Thus, the open house on Thursday nights.

Nick winter gave RCT some copper for grounding. (See attached .pdf for info.)

Mike W7MKE made a motion to arrange a trade with Nick for some of the boat anchors in the garage. All the boat anchors under consideration RCT has duplicates of, so no impact to the club. Adam W2NCC seconded the motion. Boat anchors under consideration are offered as is, no warranty or other discounts



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

offered. Motion passed unanimously.

## Info Tech and Website (Randy WB4SPB)

All systems are nominal.

In addition, Randy has these two items for discussion by the BOD:

**How to handle the clubhouse on meeting Saturdays?** In an email discussion in July (I think), we decided the clubhouse would remain open during meetings and that folks still there could attend the meeting via Zoom. But last month, everybody left the clubhouse, and nobody even locked the doors (luckily discovered and reported by Joe KF7PXB).

What to do? 1) Task the host to stay there until the meeting is over? Consensus is to find a host that can stay at the clubhouse on second Saturdays. Phil might not always be available. Phil has been tasked with finding replacement hosts on a continuing basis or until a full-time replacement has been appointed.

## Another item of policy for the Board to consider, website related.

Randy occasionally gets requests (to the website general email address) from hams wanting help with their antennas. What they want is for Randy to ask the Membership whether anyone will help them by shooting a line, getting up on their roof, or climbing their tower. Randy **would like guidance from the Board** as to whether it is appropriate to solicit this kind of help from the membership, and, if so, how? Some possibilities:

Elmers Board.

Discord server. Groups io.

Club Bulletin board.

Facebook's RCT page.

Assistance requested web page. With a definite time limit.

The problem is liability. RCT cannot do any dispatching of people due to liability issues. Email address' also cannot be released to potential folks needing help, so alternatives were discussed. The result was to use the short list above so the liability, if any, is on the requestor.





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

## Library (Doug AD7AV)

No report?

## Membership (Mike W7XH)

Current membership @336. About a dozen envelopes have come back as returned mail, mostly folks who have moved out of state. Mike has contacted all these folks and hopefully they will renew.

Salmon run: we have about 46 pledges in at present. Salmon run is being promoted during club meetings, via email blast and individual solicitations.

## Museum (Dan KD7SV)

The museum is full of boat anchors. Dan is working on reducing the large amount of stuff. Dan says that there is a radio that he had wanted and which is now in the museum. (SX-101 and HT-32 from a member).

Dan says that folks are leaving stuff in the museum at random, but he does not know why stuff is in there or what the museum should be doing with the stuff that has shown up.

Dan also has a fellow who has asked him to do Zoom meeting with another radio club. He will be doing this on a Saturday and will close the museum while this continues. Long Island CW club is the club in question and the Zoom meeting will be from 1000 to 1100 on November 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday.

Again, Dan says he will be cleaning up the stuff and getting the boat anchors to Nick Winter for the trade.

## Planning Committee (Manny AD7MA)

No report? The Planning Committee did have a meeting last Sunday, report pending.

## Property Management (Red WB7EC)

Jack, K7DBU has retired from the PMT. Red is asking for help again. If anyone out there can help let Red know. \$1532 income from PMT last month. New, good items are in triage now. More income to come as items are triaged and otherwise sorted out.

Dave W7UUU offered to take pictures of select items in the lock-up for posting on the QRZ swapmeet page. Red and Dave worked out the details on that and the stuff will hopefully sell soon



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

## Repeater Ops (AL N7OMS)

We have been to Crawford for cleaning and will be back to further test the site but saw nothing to worry about. The discussion about linking our Repeater continues.

Nick, we hope, will get the new (old) controller so we can replace the ailing one at the club house. No failures reported but the 440 had seen little use so we may not know of any outages.

Continue to ask folks to try the new Bates repeater and let anyone on the committee know what they think. Meeting with Stan Nelson is still high on our to do list.

We are all working on having personal stations that will scan all our repeaters and asking all who can to do the same. Repeater round about is coming up soon and hope to hear more folks on the repeaters. Will keep you posted as to when that will happen.

As of last night, all repeaters are up and running.

End of Report  
AL N7OMS

## Training (Stephan AD7AB)

Technician Class - September 7th & 8<sup>th</sup>.

We have 9 people signed up for the September class. There should be more to fol-

Also, October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, followed with a General class Starting Monday November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Tower (Nick K7MO)

### Tower updates W2NCC

New baluns for the 40- and 80-meter dipole antennas will be installed after Salmon Run. The rope supporting the baluns and 40- & 80-meter dipole legs will be replaced with new Dacron rope. We will be looking at installing a coax pass through entrance and cable tray.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## VE (John AC7WW)

Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> we had an Amateur Exam session. Ten candidates attended, three joined the Amateur Service as Technicians. Two passed Tech and General. Three advanced to General and two advanced to Extra. We also had an Amateur renew her License. One that advanced to General was a 14-year-old young man from Port Orchard.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and service.

Manny, AD7MA, Leonard, KA7NWF, Rich, KK7VH, Rob, K7TGU, David, K7FI, Stephen, AD7AB

The next scheduled test session is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Wednesday Workshop (Randy WB4SPB)

TBD

## Unfinished Business:

### Get to know the Radio Club conference – W2NCC

We will be hosting a conference "Get to know the Radio Club of Tacoma" for local hams. This will take place Nov 16, 2024, at the Pine Street Eagles. This conference is for NON RCT members. We will be reaching out to local hams via email leveraging the email list I created for membership.

We would like to offer door prizes.

We would like the board to authorize a few items from PMT that could be used as door prizes. We would like the board to authorize \$150.00 for food items.

A motion was made by Adam W2NCC to authorize items from PMT for door prizes and \$150 for food items. Seconded by Gary WG7X.

President Mike asked for a vote. Motion passed.

## New Business?



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Club activities. Adam W2NCC is coming up with some activities that we can do in the club house. His first suggestion is a learning soldering class. Probably during an actual 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in October activity night.

September 4th	Wednesday	Board Meeting Remind committee chairs that budgets will be needed for the next BOD meet-
September 14th	Saturday	General membership meeting
September 21-22?		Washington State Salmon Run QSO Party

Adam mentions something about life honorary life memberships. During COVID Dave and Anne donated large amounts of money to RCT. President Mike had been asked to award life memberships to them as an award for their hard work and dedication.

Adam W2NCC makes a motion to award honorary life membership to Dave and Anne Ellison for services rendered during Covid. Motion withdrawn until we meet the criteria set out by the bylaws...

BJ WA7WJR suggests a special event station centered around the national bigfoot (Sasquatch) day!

Adam made a motion to have W7DK sponsor a special event station centered around National Sasquatch (Bigfoot) day. Also asked for \$250 for QSL's and certificate printing. Seconded by President Mike with the addendum that excess funds go back to W7DK's treasury.

Sasquatch Oct 16<sup>th</sup> thru the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Adjournment at: \_\_\_\_\_ 2115 \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary, Gary McAdams WG7X

**Attachments:** Attendance List, Copper strap message from Mike W7MKE

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

## ATTENDANCE SHEET

Board of Directors Meeting

September 4th, 2024

COPPER STRAP FROM Nick K7MO  
for barter for old gear.

Strap is 2" wide x 0.022" thick

4 - 9' lengths

5 - 39' - 42' lengths

Total is 235' more or less.

Georgia Copper price for new about \$600

Nick received a Viking Vallient

He'd like to also get: Hallicrafter HT-37 and Heathkit Warrior.

I am asking the RCT BOD to authorize this trade.

Mike-W7MKE





# GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

## Radio Club of Tacoma General Meeting Minutes September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Meeting called to order at \_\_\_\_1304\_\_\_\_.

### Officers and Directors Present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vice President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary	Gary McAdams WG7X
<input type="checkbox"/>	Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Paul Matney W7PFU
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC

**NOTE:** These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.

Quorum? \_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_ (10% of membership required to conduct business)

Flag Salute led by: BJ KO7T

### Silent Key or Illness?

Steve AF7YD is back in the hospital. Doug Schafer AB7DG gave us a summary of Steve's condition. Steve will not be returning home; he is going to go to hospice...

Joe Lester K7ZG RCT# 2235, became a Silent Key on Friday 8/9/24. His daughter Chau called Randy WB4SPB this afternoon (08/11/2024) to tell him that Joe signed off unexpectedly, quickly and peacefully on Friday evening.

Rich Manson N7ANF RCT# 395 has also passed away in the last month. No details have been presented yet

### Secretary's Report (Gary WG7X)

The usual stuff: bills, bank statements, magazines and QSL cards. This month has seen a flood of Salmon Run Pledges coming in and unfortunately also a large amount of returned mail due to folks having moved, passed away, or just not updating their information on file with RCT.

We have also received a message from Mark, KB7HDX, the current incumbent ARRL Director, Northwestern



# GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



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Region. Mark is up for re-election this year, so ARRL members should be seeing ballots arrive soon. We can also vote on the ARRL website. His letter and contact information will be posted on the bulletin board in the clubhouse.

We received a letter from the city of Tacoma Planning and Development services. This letter is to inform the RCT about the upcoming Home in Tacoma (HIT) Zoning and Standards package. They want to solicit feedback on the city's intent to change residential zoning.

This may or may not have any affects to RCT's property. This letter will also be posted on the club bulletin board.

## General Meeting Program (Dave W7UUU)

The program was a fully reconstructed 1955 Field Day film, a year that "The Mighty DK" took top club score in the 7th District. This will be the first time in decades the film will be seen and heard fully synchronized. Professionally produced by John Kelley, W7KKN (SK) of KTNT TV (now KSTW), this is truly a treasure of club history and now completely restored.

(Secretary Notes that as usual, Dave W7UUU did an amazing job on this restoration in color and with complete audio!!) Thanks Dave!

Dave / RCT is still looking for someone to take the general meeting job off his hands.

## Chair/ Committee head announcements:

Adam, W2NCC wants to announce the following class: Learn the Basics of Soldering. Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, 7pm to 9pm at the clubhouse.

Participants will be building a simple kit that involves soldering components to a small circuit board. All materials will be provided. Cost will be in the \$10 - \$15 dollar range.

Space is limited: 12 people at maximum so reserve your spot by October 12<sup>th</sup> 2024. To sign up for this contact Adam W2NCC: [w2ncc@w7dk.org](mailto:w2ncc@w7dk.org) or 360-870-7894

## The Nominating Committee

Reports that a slate of candidates has been identified for this year's election, as follows:

**President:** Adam Barbera W2NCC

**Treasurer:** Open due to unfortunate circumstances.

**Director at large** (for 2 positions):





# GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Phil Pia K7PIA

Dan Vacanti KD7SV

David Ashley W7GEL

Jeff Winget W8NGS

Sam Mulvey N9MII

**The Nominating Committee members were:**

Randy Myers WB4SPB

Phil Shideler KC7PS

Nolan Glenn K7GBM

## Important items coming up?

**Salmon Run:** September 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>. Roster of operators still has some open positions, see Mike W7MKE.

**W7DK POTA:** October 20<sup>th</sup> at Saint Edward State Park. See RCT website for more information. Or BJ KO7T also has POTA info.

**W7DK General Class:** Begins September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the clubhouse. See RCT website for more information.

## Member Questions?

BJ October 20<sup>th</sup> National Sasquatch Day special event going to be ran by the members. Oct to Oct 20<sup>th</sup>. [KO7T@outlook.com](mailto:KO7T@outlook.com) for info and sign-up. At present, it is totally open; there will be many opportunities for bands and modes. Everyone who is interested should contact BJ directly.

There will be a website created by BJ for the scheduling. All bands and modes are open. Sign up today!

**Raffle:** The door prize won by John N7TES, steel antenna material.

## Activity Reports, Discussion Topics, Announcements.

Membership is 341 members. Mike welcomed Julie Cunningham KK7VHG to the club as the newest member. Mike also reports a new member from Ohio, Fred Freer. K8IG. A big welcome to Julie and Fred!

Mike W7MKE announces that November is our business meeting, and we will need a quorum for the business. The big business at hand will be elections. A quorum is 10% of the membership and that would be approximately 34 people based on the latest count. He adds that the club's ICE band filters are missing, if someone has borrowed them, please bring them back..



# GENERAL MEETING

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Steve AD7AV mentions that the clubhouse has been left open several times and the locks and alarm have not been locked or set. The secretary has just submitted a nice rant on this subject that will be published in the October Loggers Bark.

Adjournment at: \_\_\_\_\_ 1330 \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary, Gary McAdams WG7X

Attachments: Attendance list.

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA  
ATTENDANCE SHEET  
General Meeting  
September 14th, 2024





# GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

	NAME	CALLSIGN	RCT NUM
	<b>ATTENDED at Eagles</b>	Only <u>non-BOD</u> members BOD at top of minutes.	Applies to Eagles and at clubhouse.
1	Leonard Burstiner	KA7NWF	2308
2	Walt Morey	WA7SDY	2763
3	Kathryn Antonetti	K7USR	2721
4	Cathi Korth	KG7RTQ	2786
5	Mike Isakson	W7XH	2657
6	John Sherill	N7TES	2733
7	Al Ferguson	N7OMS	2107
8	Phil <u>Schideler</u>	KC7PS	2853
9	Jeff Winget	W8NGS	3101
10	BJ Rollison	KO7T	3001
11	Julie Cunningham	KK7VHG	Newest!
12	Chuck Kemmer	AC7QN	2088
13	Diane Sim	W7SIM	2403
14	Ollie Bond	AD7CC	2211
15	Florence Bond	Ollie's Wife!	
16	David Ashley	W7GEL	1987
17	Dennis <u>Nelbach</u>	KJ7DDW	2866
18	Randy Myers	WB4SPB	2050
19	Sam Mulvey	N9MII	2786
	Attended via ZOOM		
1	Nick Winter	K7MO	640
2	Dave Ellison	W7UUU	743
3	Anne Ellison	N7ANN	2656
4	Stephen Morton	AD7AB	2127
5	Paul Petach	KI6QXV	3059
6	Red Cranefield	WB7EC	2561
7	Howard Crane	Ny6w	3078
8	253-988-0878 unknown caller?		